



APPLICATION

Temporary Waiver from High School Graduation Requirements Under Chapter 217, Laws of 2014

Instructions

RCW 28A.230.090(1)(d)(ii) authorizes school districts to apply to the State Board of Education (SBE) for a temporary waiver from the career and college ready graduation requirements directed by Chapter 217, Laws of 2104 (E2SSB 6552) beginning with the graduating class of 2020 or 2021 instead of the graduating class of 2019. This law further provides:

In the application, a school district must describe why the waiver is being requested, the specific impediments preventing timely implementation, and efforts that will be taken to achieve implementation with the graduating class proposed under the waiver. The state board of education shall grant a waiver under this subsection (1)(d) to an applying school district at the next subsequent meeting of the board after receiving an application.

The SBE has adopted rules to implement this provision as WAC 180-51-068(11). The rules provide that the SBE must post an application form on its public web site for use by school districts. The rules further provide:

- The application must be accompanied by a resolution adopted by the district's board of directors requesting the waiver. The resolution must, at a minimum:
 1. State the entering freshman class or classes for whom the waiver is requested;
 2. Be signed by the chair or president of the board of directors and the district superintendent.
- A district implementing a waiver granted by the SBE under this law will continue to be subject to the prior high school graduation requirements as specified in WAC 180-51-067 during the school year or years for which the waiver has been granted.
- A district granted a waiver under this law that elects to implement the career and college ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068 during the period for which the waiver is granted shall provide notification of that decision to the SBE.

For questions or assistance with this application, please contact:

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Linda Drake
Research Director
State Board of Education
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RESOLUTION NO. 09-14/15

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A TWO-YEAR WAIVER
TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW CAREER AND COLLEGE READY
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, The Renton School District is requesting a two-year waiver to delay implementation of the new career- and college-ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068, which would make the Class of 2021 the first graduating class for which our district would implement the requirements; and

WHEREAS, This waiver will allow Renton School District to develop a comprehensive plan that considers all of the potential implications of this shift to more rigorous graduation requirements; and

WHEREAS, The Renton School District has consistently required more credits than the minimum state requirements to ensure all Renton Scholars are College and Career Ready; and

WHEREAS, The Renton School District will use this time to thoughtfully plan for this transition with the involvement of all representative stakeholders as we continue our efforts in achieving the goals we have outlined in Goals 1 , 2 and 3 in the District Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, Through this resolution and in cooperation with the school administrators, teachers, and Renton Education Association, The Renton School District hereby requests the approval of the Temporary Waiver from High School Graduation Requirements Under Chapter 217, Laws of 2014.

ADOPTED, by the Board of Directors of the Renton School District No. 403, King County, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 25th Day of February 2015.

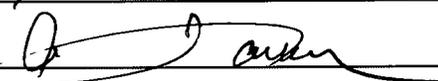
**RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 403,
Board of Directors**



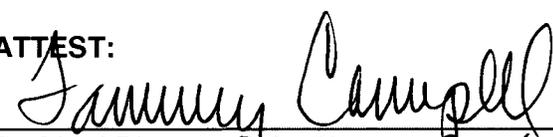








ATTEST:



Dr. Merri Rieger
Superintendent and Secretary to the Board

Dr. Tammy Campbell per Board Resolution NO. 14-13/14

Application

Please complete in full. Please identify any attachments provided by reference to the numbered items below.

1. Name of district: Renton School District

2. Contact information

Name and title: Dr. Tammy Campbell, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching

Telephone: (425) 204-2318

E-mail address: tammy.campbell@rentonschools.us

3. Date of application: 1/26/2015

4. Please explain why the district is requesting a waiver to delay implementation of career and college ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068.

The Renton School District is requesting a two-year waiver to delay implementation of the new career- and college-ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068, which would make the Class of 2021 the first graduating class for which our district would implement the requirements. This waiver will allow us to develop a comprehensive plan that considers all of the potential implications of this shift to more rigorous graduation requirements..

5. Please describe the specific impediments preventing implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2019.

The impediments preventing implementation of the career- and college-ready graduation requirements beginning with the graduating Class of 2019 primarily stem from the fact that our system does not currently have the capacity to ensure that these new requirements will be implemented in an effective and equitable manner for students. Presently, the Renton School District only requires that students earn 22 credits to graduate. Furthermore, each of our high schools only has 6 periods per day. Thus, given our existing system constraints, the transition to requiring 24 credits for graduation provides challenges in terms of students having opportunities for acceleration, remediation, and credit retrieval. The granting of this waiver request will allow our district the opportunity to research the potential implementation of different high school schedules (e.g., 7-period day; trimesters) as well as proactively address other would-be impediments including: FTE/staffing; financial resources; curriculum/programmatic changes; providing professional development for teachers, counselors, and other staff; modifications to bargaining agreements; and community engagement in the process.

6. Please indicate below the graduating class for which the district will first implement the career and college ready graduation requirements.

Class of 2020

Class of 2021

7. Please describe the efforts that will be undertaken to achieve implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements for the graduating class indicated above.

The Renton School District has already started the process of developing a plan that will ensure successful implementation of the career- and college-ready graduation requirements for the Class of 2021. In December 2014, district leaders met with principals and staff from the Department of Learning and Teaching to discuss the new graduation requirements and consider potential implications for our work with students. A result of this meeting was the decision to request a two-year waiver from our school board and the State Board of Education. Additionally, we have created a Career- and College-Ready Graduation Design Team that is tasked with developing our district's plan for implementation. As noted in a previous section, our Design Team will take the key actions and make critical decisions related to: potential alternative high school schedules; the waiving of graduation requirements; facility needs; curriculum alignment; FTE/staffing; fiscal considerations; the creation of a communication plan that engages staff, students, parents, and the greater community; programmatic considerations; and modifications to bargaining agreements. The Design Team's first meeting will take place in February 2015. Members of the team include high school and middle school principals, representatives from the Department of Learning and Teaching (e.g., curriculum directors; CTE; SpEd; ELL), representatives from our Human Resources Department, and representatives from our Business Services Department. The goal is for the Design Team to wrap up its work by December 2016, which would provide plenty of time for implementation of the new graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 and their scheduled arrival on our high school campuses during the Fall of 2017.

Final step

Please attach the district resolution required by WAC 180-51-068, signed and dated by the chair or president of the board of directors and the district superintendent.