



APPLICATION

Waiver from Providing High School Students the Opportunity to Access at Least One Career and Technical Education Math or Science Statewide Course Equivalency Under Chapter 217, Laws of 2014

Instructions

RCW 28A.230.010, Chapter 217, Laws of 2104 (E2SSB 6552), describes the requirement of districts to provide students the opportunity to access at least one statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) math or science course equivalency:

(2) School district boards of directors must provide high school students with the opportunity to access at least one career and technical education course that is considered equivalent to a mathematics course or at least one career and technical education course that is considered equivalent to a science course as determined by the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education in RCW 28A.700.070. Students may access such courses at high schools, interdistrict cooperatives, skill centers or branch or satellite skill centers, or through online learning or applicable running start vocational courses.

The law further allows that districts with fewer than two thousand students may apply to the State Board of Education (SBE) for a waiver from this requirement:

(3) School district boards of directors of school districts with fewer than two thousand students may apply to the state board of education for a waiver from the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

The SBE has adopted rules to implement this provision as WAC 180-18-100. 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:

- Districts with fewer than two thousand students according to the October P223 headcount may apply for a waiver of up to two years from the provisions of RCW 28A.230.010(2).
- To receive a waiver, districts must demonstrate that students enrolled in the district do not have and cannot be provided reasonable access, through high schools, interdistrict cooperatives, skill centers or branch or satellite skill centers, or through online learning or Running Start vocational courses, to the statewide course equivalencies.
- To provide sufficient notice to students, parents, and staff, the application must be submitted to the SBE no later than January 15th of the school year prior to the school year for which the waiver is requested.

Please send the application electronically to:

Parker Teed
Data Analyst
360-725-6047
Parker.Teed@k12.wa.us

For questions, please contact

Linda Drake
Director of Career- and College-Ready Initiatives
360-725-6028
Linda.Drake@k12.wa.us

Application

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

1. Name of district: **Mt. Baker School District #507**

2. Contact information

Name and title: **Todd Rightmire, CTE Director**

Telephone: **(360)383-2085**

E-mail address: **todd@mtbaker.wednet.edu**

3. Date of application: **4/24/2017**

4. What is the district's headcount on the most recent October P223 report?

1841

5. Do high school students in your district have the opportunity to attend a skill center, a skill center branch, or a satellite skill center?

a. Yes/No

b. Name of skill center: Northwest Career Technical Academy

6. Please describe the specific impediments preventing students in your district from accessing at least one CTE course that is considered equivalent to a math course or a science course as determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the SBE. Please address the lack of reasonable access to courses equivalencies through each of the following:

- a. **High school courses:** CTE students at Mount Baker have had access to science equivalency courses since the early 1990's when the CTE agriculture and science departments worked collaboratively, as part of a district science curriculum review, to redesign the scope and course sequence of our comprehensive Mt Baker science program. We added additional science offerings in CTE in 2006 when our last major collaboration about scope and sequence was developed. Chief among concerns of the curriculum review was that *all* Mount Baker students would have access to quality science and that the science course sequence would spiral logically from year to year regardless of department; if a Mount Baker student takes a locally approved science equivalency course in the CTE department their sophomore year, they are ready to take *all* junior-level courses offered in the science department their junior year. Currently, 5 of our CTE Agriculture classes are fully cross-credited as science with 3 of these courses locally approved by the MBSD school board as lab science equivalents.

Due to declining enrollment, MBSD is currently in RIF status making it difficult, if not impossible to add staff to teach a new course from the OSPI list of course equivalency frameworks. Replacing one of our current courses with one of the OSPI equivalency courses also poses problems because the state-approved equivalencies were not designed to prepare students within Mt Baker's particular programmatic sequence of science courses. For example, the CASE Ag Biology closely resembles our locally approved animal biology course, (similar labs, same NGSS and industry standards), but our local course is designed to assure that upon exiting animal biology, students will have the prerequisite knowledge and skills to enter any junior level course offered by the science department. Similarly, the life science class that all freshmen are required to take is a CTE Environmental Biology class. The course framework tightly aligns to the knowledge, skills and processes students need to learn in order to meet standard on the biology EOC, *and* it is aligned to the integrated earth/space/physical science offered to sophomores via the science department.

To be clear, each of the 5 courses described above have current state-approved CTE course frameworks, AND have met the rigorous local standards of both the Mt Baker science department and the Mount Baker school board to be locally approved as science equivalence courses.

One more thing to note" Mount Baker High School is in the process of reviewing our bell schedule and considering options beyond our current modified 6 period day. In anticipation that this review will result in a new schedule that offers additional class sections to students, our CTE advisory committee has identified 2-3 potential new classes from the OSPI approved equivalencies list, that would work for Technology (math and science) and at least one that could potentially work for CTE agriculture (depending on student demand and staffing).

- b. **Main, branch, and satellite skills center campuses:** The branch campus only offers Welding and Construction but they are not course equivalents at Meridian HS. Mt. Vernon main campus is 50 minutes away.
- c. **Interdistrict cooperatives:** none exist
- d. **Online learning:** Not adopted course equivalency frameworks.
- e. **Running Start vocational courses:** Not adopted course equivalency frameworks.

7. Please indicate the term of the waiver being requested:

- a. One year
- b. Two years

9. Final step

The application must be signed and dated by the chair or president of the board of directors and the district superintendent

Irish Hart, Board Chair

5/11/17

Name, Chair or President of School Board of Directors

[Handwritten signature]

5/1/17

Name, Superintendent