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# High School Graduation Requirements

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Bellingham School District

- Dr. Ken Vedra, Superintendent
- Sherrie Brown, Deputy Superintendent

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# Bellingham Strategic Plan

Commitment to having *all* students ready for:

- College
  - Careers
  - Citizenship
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# Purpose for Reviewing the District Graduation Requirements in 2007

- To review the current level of preparation and expectation the district has for our graduates.
  - To review the current Bellingham School District graduation requirements to ensure all graduates are college eligible.
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# Establishment of a District Task Force

- Representatives from each high school
  - Parents, community members, teachers, administrators
  - Experts – Mathematics Department Chair; World Language Chair; Director of Instructional Technology and Libraries
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# Process Followed by Task Force

- Approval of TF by Board of Directors
  - Selection of representatives from each HS
  - Review of district Strategic Plan
  - Review of current data
  - Review of HECB recommendations
  - Review of each content area
  - Review of impact on student choice
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# Current District Grad Requirements vs. Proposed Requirements

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
English	3.5 Credits (.5 Credit senior year)	4.0 Credits
History	3.0 Credits	Same
Science	2.0 Credits	Same
Mathematics	2.0 Credits	3.0 Credits (through Algebra 2)
World Language	0 Credits	2.0 Credits (Same Lang)
PE	1.50 Credits	Same
Health	.50 Credit	Same
Occ Ed	1.0 Credits	Same
Fine Arts	1.0 Credits	Same
Electives	8.50 Credits	6.0 Elect. Cr.
Total: 23.0 Credits		Total: 23.0 Cr.

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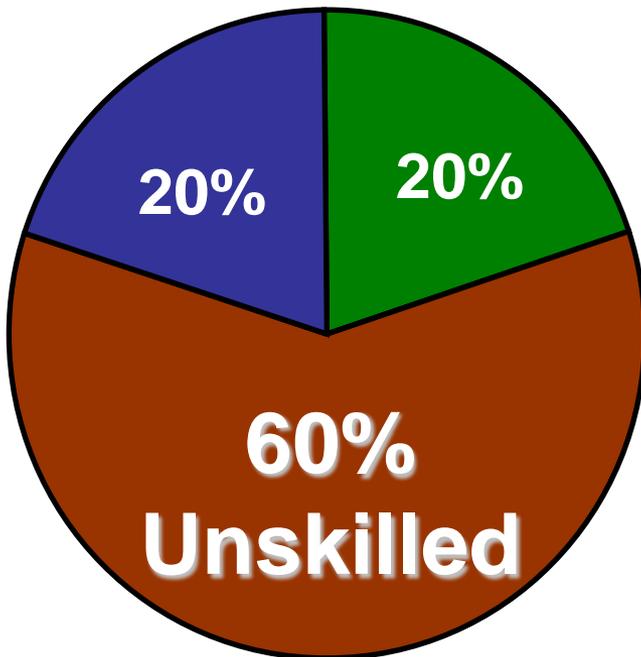
# Why Change Something if it is Successfully Serving the Majority?

- ✓ Have all students Ready for College, Career, Citizenship
  - ✓ No “Sifting and Sorting”
  - ✓ Formed Student Focus Groups in 2004 using students from wide variety of backgrounds, and overwhelmingly they said that they could be challenged to do more
  - ✓ Student Data indicating that over 43% of our students had to take Remedial Math at Community/Technical College Levels
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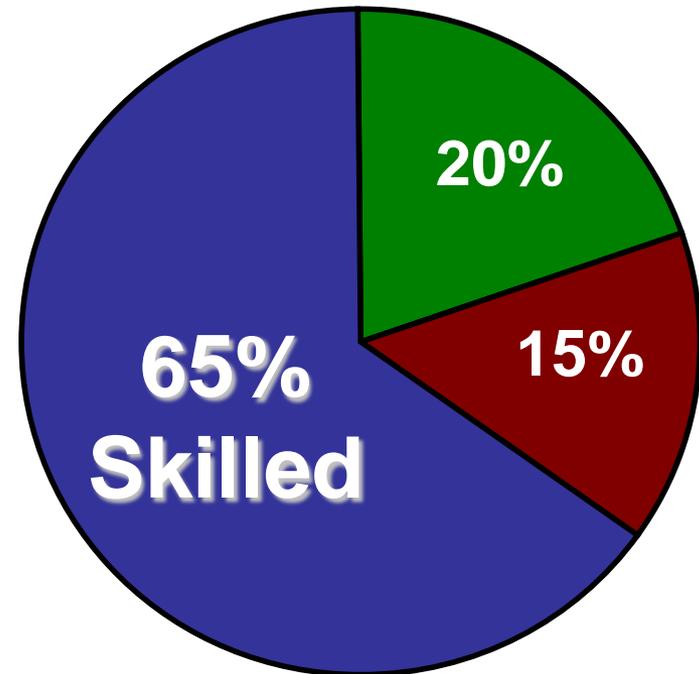
Then and now:

The world has changed.

Workforce in 1950



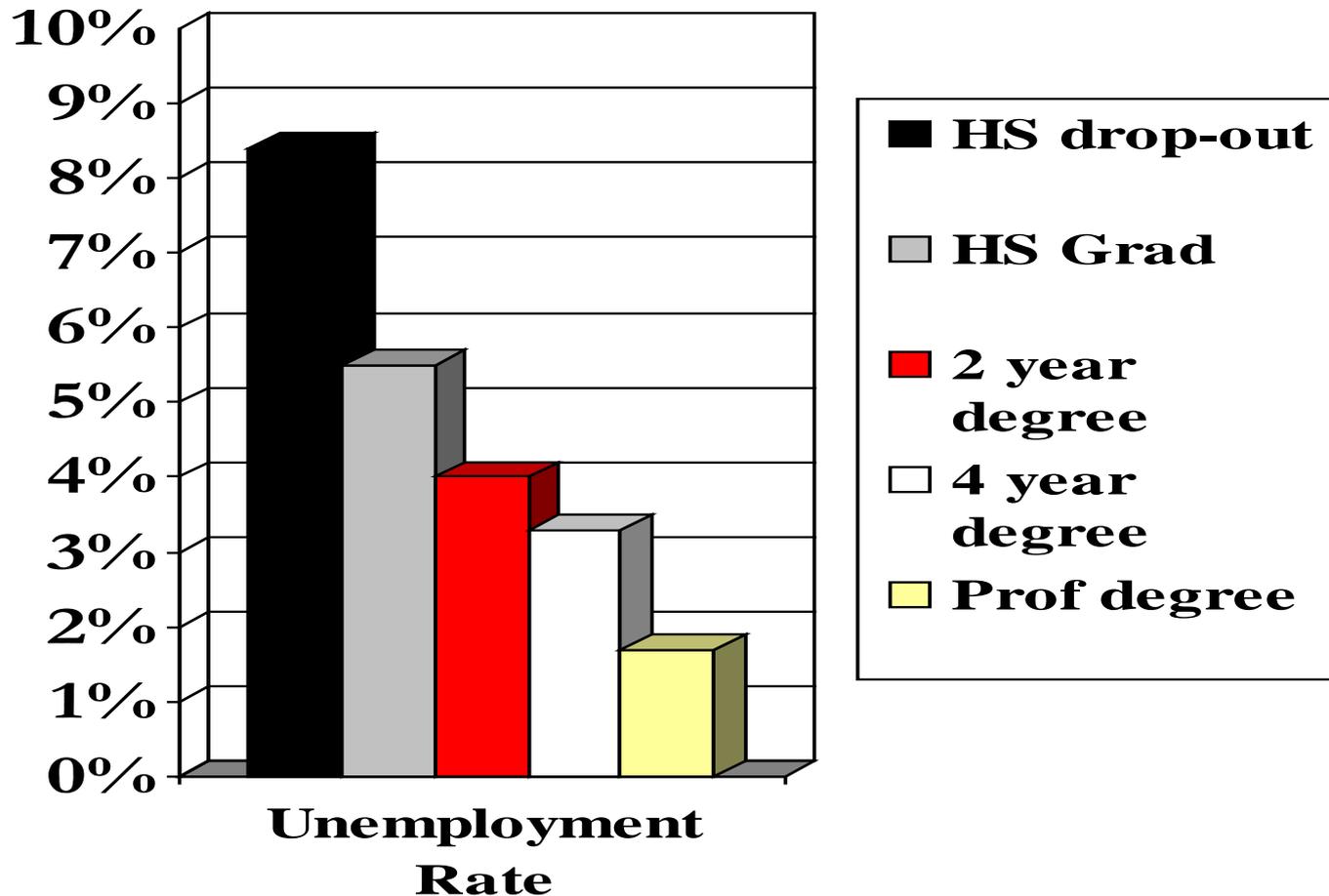
Workforce in 2000



■ Professional ■ Unskilled ■ Skilled

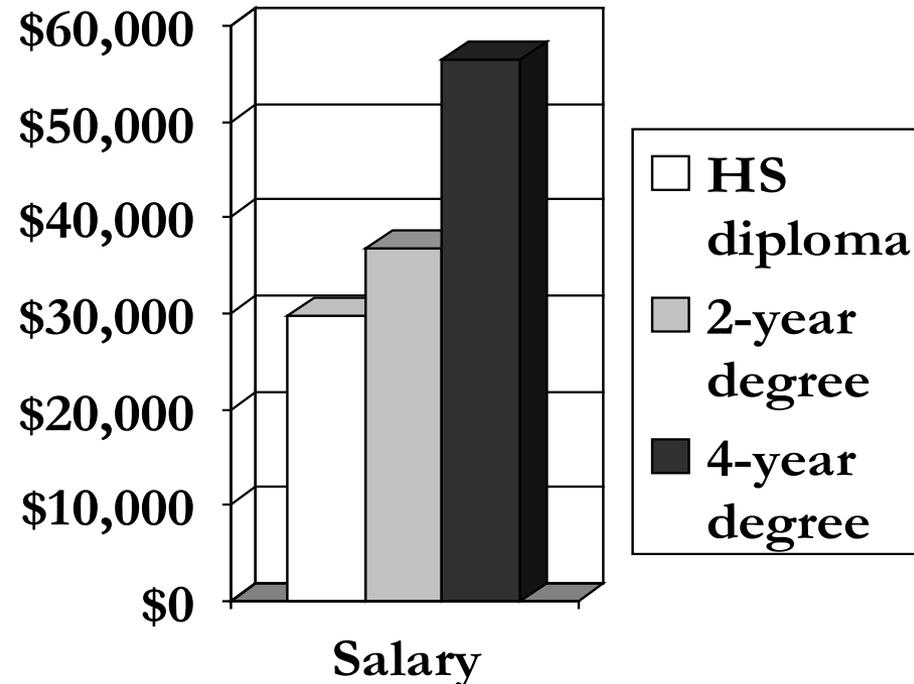
# More reasons for “being ready”

- Employability greatly increases with college degree.



# Reasons for “being ready”

- Earning power is significantly impacted



## US Census Bureau: Lifetime Earning Estimates

- Bachelor's Degree: \$2,050,000
- Associate's Degree: \$1,550,000
- High School Graduate: \$1,200,000

# Math on the Job

Kind of math needed for jobs requiring...		Algebra 2	Chemistry	College Chemistry	College Calculus
A 2-year degree or technical training	Auto Mechanic	✓	✓		
	Dental Hygienist	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Firefighter	✓	✓		
	Web Designer	✓			
A 4-year degree	Accountant	✓	✓		
	Agricultural Technology & Management	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Registered Nurse	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Software Engineer	✓			

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# Task Force Recommendations

- English 3.5 to 4.0 credits
  - Mathematics 2.0 to 3.0 credits
  - World Language 0 to 2.0 credits
  - Technology Connections .5 to 0 credits
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# Adoption of Graduation Requirements

- The Bellingham School District Board of Directors adopted the new requirements in the spring of 2007.
  - Parents and students were positive about the new requirements; the staff from one of the high schools was opposed to the requirements.
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# “Phase-in” Recommendations

- English - class of 2012
  - Mathematics – class of 2013
  - World Language – class of 2014
  - Technology Connections – class of 2014
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# English

- Addition of .5 credit requirement
  - Recommendation that courses be added to offer students more choice e.g., drama, speech, Debate, Culminating Project, technical writing, etc.
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# World Language

- Addition of 2.0 credit requirement
  - Find alternative ways for students to earn credit e.g., middle school, demonstration of proficiency on national standards, etc.
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# Current Status In Our District

- Currently 70% of our graduates are taking two years of World Language



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# Mathematics

- 3 credits through Algebra II and meet minimum proficiency standards established by the state
  - For students who do not pass the WASL, math through their senior year or through Algebra II and meet minimum proficiency standards established by the state
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# Current Status In Our District

- Currently 74% of our graduates are taking three years of mathematics in math classes of Algebra or higher.
  - Pre-Algebra, Occupational Math, Consumer Math and other remedial math classes were not counted.
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# Technology Connections

- Remove the .5 Technology Connections requirement
  - Embed the skills now taught in Technology Connections into the middle school program
  - New Career/Tech Ed Guidelines say these skills needed in Middle School
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# Impact on Electives

- The task force studied the impact of the new requirements on electives
  - Sample schedules were created
  - Plans are being developed that will allow middle school students to take classes for high school credit in middle school (Algebra I, World Language, etc.)
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Grade	Period	Schedule 1		Schedule 2		Schedule 3		Schedule 4	
		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
9	1	English	English	English	English	English	English	English	English
	2	Algebra	Algebra	Geometry	Geometry	Geometry	Geometry	Algebra 1-b	Algebra 1-b
	3	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
	4	PE	PE	Social Studies	PE	Social Studies	PE	Social Studies	
	5	Social Studies		World Lang.	World Lang.	World Lang.	World Lang.	PE	PE
	6			Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd		
10	1	English	English	English	English	English	English	English	English
	2	Geometry	Geometry	Algebra II	Algebra II	Algebra II	Algebra II	Geometry	Geometry
	3	Science	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies	Science	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies
	4	Social Studies	Social Studies	Science	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies	Science	Science
	5	Health	PE	World Lang.	World Lang.	World Lang.	World Lang.	PE	Health
	6			Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd		
11	1	English	English	English	English	English	English	English	English
	2	Algebra II	Algebra II	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math Support	Math Support
	3	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	Science	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies
	4	Oc Ed	OcEd	Science	Science	Social Studies	Social Studies	World Lang.	World Lang.
	5	World Lang.	World Lang.	Health	PE	Health	PE	Oc Ed	OcEd
	6			Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd		
12	1	English	English	English	English	English	English	English	English
	2	Social Studies		Math	Math	Math	Math	Math Support	Math Support
	3	Arts	Arts	Social Studies	PE	Science	Science	World Lang.	World Lang.
	4	World Lang.	World Lang.	Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd	Social Studies	PE	Social Studies	
	5					Arts or OcEd	Arts or OcEd	Arts	Arts
	6								
Summary:		4.0 English 3.0 Math 3.0 Social Studies 2.0 Science 2.0 World Language 1.5 PE 1.0 OcEd 1.0 Arts 0.5 Health		4.0 English 4.0 Math 3.0 Social Studies 3.0 Science 2.0 World Language 1.5 PE 1.0 OcEd 4.0 Arts or OcEd 0.5 Health		4.0 English 4.0 Math 3.0 Social Studies 4.0 Science 2.0 World Language 1.5 PE 1.0 OcEd 4.0 Arts or OcEd 0.5 Health		4.0 English 4.0 Math 3.0 Social Studies 2.0 Science 2.0 World Language 1.5 PE 1.0 OcEd 1.0 Arts 0.5 Health	

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# Graduation Implementation Task Force

- Task force was established in 2008-09 to develop a multi-year Management Action Plan (MAP) to insure the implementation of the new Graduation Requirements
  - The MAP includes detailed plans in the areas of curriculum and instruction, staffing, budget, special programs, professional development and other issues
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# Challenges

- This quickly became a K-12 Change which has prompted Mathematics alignments and additions of World Language at Elementary and Middle School levels
  - Support for students who struggle to meet the new requirements particularly Math and World Language---(After school Tutoring, Algebra 1 taking two years for completion, Development of “Applied Algebra 2, etc.)
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# Student Quote

Raise expectations and support for all students:

“Definitely hold us to a higher standard.”

*Lindsay, 2004 Squalicum graduate  
2004 Focus Groups*

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