

Opening Doors with CORE 24

ENGLISH	●	●	●	●
MATH	●	●	●	
SCIENCE	●	●	●	
SOCIAL STUDIES	●	●	●	
ARTS	●	●		
FITNESS	●	◐		
HEALTH	◐			

CAREER CONCENTRATION	●	●	●	
WORLD LANGUAGE				
ELECTIVES	●	●	●	●



**CERTIFICATE, APPRENTICESHIP, OR
TWO-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM**

CORE 24 allows for flexibility and personalization:

TAKE CLASSES IN DIFFERENT VENUES. Complete courses in high schools, skills centers, and/or online—put together the combination that works best.

EARN DUAL CREDIT. Take advantage of Running Start, Tech Prep, and Advanced Placement programs to begin earning college credit in high school.

CONSIDER CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) COURSE EQUIVALENTS. Satisfy some requirements through CTE-course equivalents per district policy.

MAKE APPROPRIATE SUBSTITUTIONS. If consistent with career plans, take a third math credit different from Algebra II/Integrated Math III, or substitute other courses for world language credits.

GO DEEP. Explore an interest area by using career concentration and elective credits.

CAREER CONCENTRATION	●	●	●
WORLD LANGUAGE	●	●	
ELECTIVES	●	●	



FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE DEGREE

CORE 24 allows for flexibility and personalization:

MEET OR EXCEED COLLEGE ENTRANCE STANDARDS. Meet or exceed the Higher Education Coordinating Board minimum college admission standards—college academic distribution requirements.

TAKE CLASSES IN DIFFERENT VENUES. Complete courses in high schools, skills centers, and/or online—put together the combination that works best.

EARN DUAL CREDIT. Take advantage of Running Start, Tech Prep, and Advanced Placement programs to begin earning college credit in high school.

START EARLY. Earn credit through approved middle school courses.

GO DEEP. Explore an interest area by using career concentration and elective credits.

Educated Citizens with Living-wage Jobs

CORE 24 is the new graduation requirements credit framework adopted by the Washington State Board of Education (SBE) in July 2008, with implementation contingent upon funding.

CORE 24 provides students with a strong academic foundation, and with flexibility that will prepare them for whatever path they choose — whether that's the workforce, an apprenticeship in the trades, or a two- or four-year college.

CORE 24 matters because Washington State's high school graduation requirements haven't been updated since 1985. The world our graduates walk into today is much more challenging, demanding and fast-paced than a quarter century ago.

CORE 24 represents the well-rounded education our graduates will need to be flexible, adaptable lifelong learners in a global economy and a fast-changing society. CORE 24 is designed to prepare our young people for the future.

WHAT CORE 24 IS

■ **A KEY THAT OPENS ALL DOORS.** CORE 24 equips students to have all options open to them: career and apprenticeship, college, or both. Whether a student is headed for college or the trades, there is a CORE 24 pathway that will get her ready. And if she wants to keep both options open, she can. CORE 24 gives every student the base of knowledge they need for the 21st century, and the freedom to build upon that base as their own learning interests and future plans determine.

■ **A TOOL TO HELP STUDENTS PLAN AHEAD.** CORE 24 will ensure that high school students develop a plan for their learning, update it and live up to it. Under the current requirements, a student can take the minimum necessary requirements and still end up ineligible for apprenticeship programs or for a four-year college. Under CORE 24, this won't happen: that student will have an education game plan to help ensure that when he graduates, he will have a clear next step.

■ **A FRAME WITH FLEXIBILITY.** CORE 24 lays out credit requirements by subject matter category — but then it's up to every school district, in the best traditions of local control, to determine what courses meet those requirements and to develop innovative ways for students to earn credit. Credits can be earned via competency — not just by seat time. Depending on which pathway a student wants to take, she can swap out credits from one subject to another in order to build a career concentration.

WHAT CORE 24 IS NOT

■ **THIS IS NOT A COLLEGE- OR UNIVERSITY-CENTRIC PROGRAM.** For many students, the choice that makes most sense after graduation is going into the workforce or an apprenticeship, or to a community or technical college. CORE 24 treats all these paths as equally worthy — and prepares all students for success in any of them.

■ **THIS IS NOT AN UNFUNDED MANDATE, OR AN OVERNIGHT SWITCH.** SBE has stated forcefully that implementation of this framework will be contingent upon funding. New requirements will be phased in over several years, so that the Class of 2016 would be the first possible class to graduate under CORE 24.

■ **THIS IS NOT AN END TO LOCAL CONTROL.** For over 50 years, SBE has set statewide minimum graduation requirements, and for all those years, local districts have in their own ways built upon that floor. Today, **all** districts in the state already exceed the state minimums: local school boards, educators and parents clearly know that we have to do more to prepare our graduates for success.

NEXT STEPS

The Basic Education Finance Joint Task Force proposal to the Legislature supports the staffing and instructional time necessary to implement 24 credits of minimum high school graduation requirements.

SBE will be working with an Implementation Task Force to consider the implementation challenges presented by CORE 24.

Thanks to the Washington State PTA, League of Education Voters, Higher Education Coordinating Board, Workforce Training Board and others for their support of CORE 24.

