

Graduation Requirements Satisfied in Middle School Worksheet 2

GROUP _____

The Board has required that credits earned for high school graduation be taught to grade 9 or above level standards. The Board has also required students to earn .5 credit in WA State History for graduation.

OSPI has long recommended that WA State History be taught in middle school, in part to give districts more flexibility to incorporate other aspects of social studies, primarily modern world history, into their programs.

In 2008, almost 40% of the 14,875 2008 graduates in the 2008 Transcript Study completed WA State History prior to entering 9th grade; the majority did not receive credit for the class. Instead, there was documentation on the transcript that the requirement was met in middle school. Districts may have recorded it in this way because the course was not taught to grade 9 or above level standards, and therefore did not technically meet the criterion for awarding credit for graduation.

The WA State History situation suggests that a discussion is warranted about whether, and under what circumstances, the Board might make an exception to its policy expectation that all high school graduation requirements are taught to grade 9 or above standards.

Discussion:

1. The Board is committed to a policy that would enable all students to meet career and college ready standards. Yet they are also looking for ways to increase the flexibility of Core 24. In past discussions by the Meaningful High School Diploma Work Group, the possibility of allowing students to take courses prior to 9th grade, taught at grades 7-8 levels, has been mentioned for the following subject areas: WA State History and Arts. (e.g., students could meet one Arts requirement prior to 9th grade, taught at a middle school level; the second requirement would need to be met in grades 9-12).

a. Would these subjects be appropriate for consideration under this policy?

- Washington State History: ___yes ___no
- Arts: ___yes ___no

Rationale: Please list the advantages and disadvantages of each choice.

WA State History Advantages	WA State History Disadvantages

Arts Advantages	Arts Disadvantages

(Please turn over page!)

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b. Are there other subject(s) that might fall under this policy, and if so, what is your rationale?

2. Are there any other circumstances (aside from designated subject areas) where you could imagine that it would be good state policy to permit students prior to 9th grade to meet graduation requirements taught to 7-8 grade level standards?

(Please turn over page!)