



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governance | Accountability | Achievement | Oversight | Career & College Readiness

APPLICATION

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

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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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Application

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

1. Name of district: Kennewick School District

2. Contact information

Name and title: Dave Bond, Superintendent

Telephone: 509 222-5020

E-mail address: dave.bond@ksd.org

3. Date of application: 12/11/2014

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 Kennewick School Board has discussed the new graduation requirements at several meetings. Some board members do not believe that adding additional credits in and of itself improves the quality of the high school diploma. Other board members advocated for delaying the implementation of the 24 credit requirement for as long as possible. Following the board discussion, they agreed that additional time is needed to plan and implement more opportunities for students to earn credits for graduation. Kennewick School District currently has a six period day, meaning the majority of students take six classes per year for four years. Thus, students would need to pass every class each year to reach the 24 credits needed for graduation. The board discussed adding zero and seventh hour classes, making more credits available in eighth grade, expanding on-line opportunities, and developing additional CTE equivalencies. The requested waiver of one year will give needed time to develop and implement these additional credit opportunities for the Class of 2020.

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

The Kennewick School Board believes that time is needed to develop additional credit opportunities for students and find appropriate staff to teach them. For example, the addition of another year of lab science will increase the need for science teachers and classrooms. In addition, world language teachers are needed due to the focus on more students achieving two years of a foreign language. If more high school classes are to be offered in the eighth grade, teachers will need to be trained to teach those classes. The requested additional year will allow time to retrofit existing classrooms for science lab space, transition teaching staff to meet the new graduation requirements and prepare middle school teachers to deliver more high school courses.

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.
1. Communication with community, teachers, parents, and students will begin this year and continue in following years to ensure all stake holders are aware of the career and college ready graduation requirement.
 2. Transition of existing district staff to more science, world language, and art teaching positions will commence through attrition, transfers and increased staffing due to student growth.
 3. The next two summers will be utilized to make facility changes to accommodate additional science lab space.
 4. Administration will develop and implement extended day options allowing students to earn additional credits. Increased staffing will be needed to implement this option.
 5. Administration will continue developing equivalency credits through approved CTE courses.

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.



Kennewick School District #17, 1000 West Fourth Avenue, Kennewick, WA 99336-5601

**Resolution No. 5
2014-2015**

RESOLUTION NOTIFYING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KENNEWICK SCHOOL DISTRICT'S DECISION TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 24 CREDIT GRADUATION REQUIREMENT UNTIL THE CLASS OF 2020

WHEREAS, it is the desire and the intent of the Kennewick School District Board of Directors to graduate students well-prepared for success in post-secondary education, work, and life; and

WHEREAS, the legislature passed E2SSB 6552 which raises the number of credits required for graduation to 24 specified credits for the Class of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the legislature also provided in E2SSB 6552 the opportunity for school districts to request a waiver and delay implementation of the 24 credit requirement until 2020 or 2021; and

WHEREAS, the elected School Board of the Kennewick School District has discussed this issue at several meetings and has carefully considered the necessary time and resources required to implement the new requirement in a reasonable manner;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Kennewick School District No. 17, Benton County, Washington, in accordance with the provisions of RCW 28A.230.090 (1)(d)(ii) hereby requests a waiver of the 24 credit requirement for the class of 2019 and will implement the 24 credit requirement beginning with the Class of 2020.

APPROVED by the Board of Directors of Kennewick School District No. 17, Benton County, Washington, in a regular meeting thereof held on the 10th day of December 2014.

Secretary to the Board

Chairperson of the Board of Directors

Member of the Board of Directors