



## APPLICATION

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

#### 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: Snohomish School District #201
  
2. Contact information  
Name and title: Scott M. Peacock, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Services  
Telephone: 360-563-7266  
E-mail address: scott.peacock@sno.wednet.edu
  
3. Date of application: 10/22/2014
  
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.

Our school district is requesting a waiver to delay implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068 for the graduation classes of 2019 and 2020. We are requesting this waiver for three reasons:

1. We need two years to plan how we will provide the additional counseling and academic supports that will be required, beginning with our current 8<sup>th</sup> graders, to ensure that they remain on the path to on-time graduation. The current number of credits required for graduation in our district (22) allow students the flexibility to still graduate on time if, for some reason, they earn all but two credits during their four-year high school career.
2. Our district needs two years to communicate the new graduation requirements to parents and fully advertise the ways that students can meet these requirements through their High School and Beyond plans.
3. The 24-credit graduation requirement for current 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have a staffing, curricular and budget impact which we have not had the time to fully analyze and address starting next year. This includes the need to expand and develop equivalencies in our CTE programs. We must also prepare teachers for teaching these equivalencies. Finally, we have to communicate, starting with our current 8<sup>th</sup> graders, the options available under the Personalized Pathway.
4. We need to fully plan how we will address new facility, curricular and equipment needs that come with adding a third year of science.

In order for the new college and career ready graduation requirements to be meaningful and attainable to students, our school district is committed to planning how we bring this to scale. We must be able to communicate real options to incoming freshman who are starting to build their High School and Beyond plans as 8<sup>th</sup> graders. We anticipate that we will be able to bring these changes to a reality by the time our graduation class of 2021 enters high school in the fall of 2017.

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

The impediments that prevent implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements are:

1. Current counseling, monitoring tools and academic supports are built to ensure students meet our district requirement to earn 22 credits for on-time graduation. We will need to expand counseling resources, evaluate graduation monitoring tools and expand academic supports that begin with 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
2. We have not yet had the opportunity to expand equivalencies, address the need to offer additional courses and sections of courses that are now required to meet the 24-credit graduation requirement. These will require resources in budget, staffing and professional development in order to map out the options available to students as they plan their high school careers.
3. Because we have not had the opportunity to address the needs outlined above, we have not been able to communicate with parents how our district will meet the new 24-credit requirement and provide the supports available to students that will enable them to graduate on-time.
4. Our district does not have the facilities, curriculum materials or equipment needed to meet the additional requirements, particularly in equipment/lab-driven courses such as science.

We will need two years to address the impediments outlined above and bring implementation up to scale in both regular high schools and in our alternative programs.

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.

We will work over the next two years to implement the career and college ready graduation requirements at all of our high schools through the following activities:

1. Review graduation monitoring tools/procedures and implement those that better support planning in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and follow-up as students enact their High School and Beyond plans
2. Expand assessment and academic supports that identify student needs quickly and provide timely support. (This already includes implementation of the new Star Enterprise assessment system in our district for freshman.)
3. Review and expand equivalencies available to students taking CTE courses. This may include the expansion of course offerings that are automatically equivalent under

OSPI-developed frameworks. Provide professional development to teachers of newly identified equivalencies to ensure those courses are addressing state standards.

4. Review and identify new course offerings and the increased number of sections required in lab/equipment-heavy courses, so that we are allocating the staffing, budget and facilities necessary for these courses to be meaningful to students.
5. Scale up the allocation of resources that meet the needs discussed above, including purchasing additional curriculum material.
6. Communicate the course offerings, counseling and academic supports available to students and families as they work toward on-time graduation.

### **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.