

COMMUNITY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

BACKGROUND

A State Board of Education (SBE) rule (WAC 180-08-015) states that SBE will review all Board rules not less than every three years. SBE may update or clarify any of its rules and may fix incorrect references that have developed due to changes in other rules and laws.

Community College High School Diploma Programs Rule Revision

Currently community and technical colleges can issue a high school diploma to students if they meet the State Board of Education's graduation requirements. Last session, the legislature created two more options under Substitute House Bill 1758. The changes require a revision to the Board's rule concerning community college high school diploma programs (WAC 180-51-053).

The new options allow for community or technical colleges to issue a high school diploma without meeting the State Board of Education's graduation requirements to students if they complete an Associate's Degree and are either enrolled in Running Start or are twenty-one years or older.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

Community College High School Diploma Programs Rule Revision

The amendments to WAC 180-51-053 add two references to the law. The full rule, with the amendments, is attached as a separate document. An excerpt of the rule, which shows the applicable sections is provided below (new language is underlined).

WAC 180-51-053 Community college high school diploma programs.

(1)(a) **Minimum requirements for high school diploma.** The minimum requirements and procedures for the issuance of a high school diploma by or through a community or technical college district shall be as prescribed by the state board of education in this section and chapters 180-51 and 180-56 WAC or as set forth in RCW 28B.50.535 (2) or (3).

(b) Any high school graduation diploma issued by or through a community or technical college district shall certify that the diploma is issued in compliance with high school graduation requirements established by the state board of education and procedures established by the superintendent of public instruction or as set forth in RCW 28B.50.535 (2) or (3).

EXPECTED ACTION

SBE will give direction to staff to submit the proposed amendment for WAC 180-51-053 to the Code Reviser and to set a public hearing for the November Regular Board meeting.

WAC 180-51-053 Community college high school diploma programs. (1)(a) Minimum requirements for high school diploma.

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(b) Any high school graduation diploma issued by or through a community or technical college district shall certify that the diploma is issued in compliance with high school graduation requirements established by the state board of education and procedures established by the superintendent of public instruction or as set forth in RCW 28B.50.535 (2) or (3).

(2) Provisions governing program for persons eighteen years of age and over.

(a) The appropriate school district, community college, or technical college education official shall evaluate the previous educational records of the student and may provide evaluative testing to determine the student's educational level. The official shall recommend an appropriate course or courses of study and upon the successful completion of such study the student will be eligible for the high school diploma.

(b) Satisfaction of minimum course requirements may be met by one or more of the following methods with the applicable

institution granting credit verifying completion of course requirements.

(i) Actual completion of courses regularly conducted in high school;

(ii) Technical college;

(iii) Community college;

(iv) Approved correspondence or extension courses;

(v) Supervised independent study; or

(vi) Testing in specific subject areas.

(c) The appropriate education official shall exercise reasonable judgment in appraising the educational experience of the student either in or out of a formal school program to determine the degree to which the student has satisfied the minimum credit requirements for completion of the high school program. Consideration may be given to work experience, vocational training, civic responsibilities discharged by the adult and other evidences of educational attainment.

(d) A high school diploma shall be granted to each individual who satisfactorily meets the requirements for high school completion. The diploma shall be issued by the appropriate school district, community college, or technical college: Records of diplomas issued under the provisions of this subsection shall be maintained by the issuing agency.

(3) Provisions governing program for persons under eighteen years of age.

(a) The high school principal shall evaluate the previous educational record of the individual and prior to his or her enrollment in courses and in cooperation with the appropriate education official of a community college or technical college shall approve the program of studies leading to the high school diploma.

(b) The student must be assigned a program supervisor.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.230 RCW and RCW 28B.50.915.
04-20-093, § 180-51-053, filed 10/5/04, effective 11/5/04.]