



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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September 15, 2009

() Action Required
(X) Informational

MEMORANDUM NO. 054-09M SECONDARY EDUCATION

TO: Educational Service District Superintendents
School District Superintendents
High School Principals
Middle School Principals
School District Curriculum Directors
School District Assessment Coordinators

FROM: Randy I. Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Edie Harding, Executive Director, State Board of Education

RE: Revision of Third Credit Math Rule

CONTACT: Kathe Taylor, Ph.D., Policy Director, State Board of Education
kathe.taylor@k12.wa.us, (360) 725-6028

Dan Newell, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, dan.newell@k12.wa.us, (360) 725-4954. The agency TTY number is (360) 664-3631.

NOTE: *School principals are strongly encouraged to share this memorandum with school counselors, as neither Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) nor the State Board of Education (SBE) have an email distribution list to electronically communicate directly with school counselors.*

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify high schools and middle schools of a revision to the third credit math rule, a component of the new high school graduation requirements beginning for those students entering the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2009.

In the original Washington Administration Code ([WAC 180-51-066](#)), students who elected to take a high school level mathematics course without credit as an eighth grader were required to repeat that same course for credit in high school.

The SBE adopted a revision to this rule. While students can still repeat the course, the new amendment gives them the option of taking another prescribed mathematics course instead.

The revised WAC allows for much greater flexibility in scheduling, empowering students and educators to choose high school level mathematics course work best suited for the students' educational and career goals.

A more detailed explanation of the rule revision is available online at:
<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/SBERuleActivity.html>.

The original rule adopted by the SBE on July 24, 2008, required all students in the class of 2013 and beyond to earn three mathematics credits to graduate from a public high school. These new requirements were requested in 2007 legislation and were supported by research and testimony to the SBE from the business community and other stakeholders.

The content of the three credits must be aligned with the high school mathematics standards as developed and revised by OSPI. The three mathematics credits include courses taken in a progressive sequence:

- Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.
- Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, and Integrated Mathematics III.
- Equivalent career and technical education courses in any of the preceding math courses listed above may be used in accordance with [RCW 28A.230.097](#).

For more information, please contact: Kathe Taylor, Ph.D., Policy Director, SBE, at (360) 725-6028 or email at kathe.taylor@k12.wa.us or Dan Newell, Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Education, OSPI, at (360) 725-4954 or email at dan.newell@k12.wa.us. The agency TTY number is (360) 664-3631.

K-12 EDUCATION

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STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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