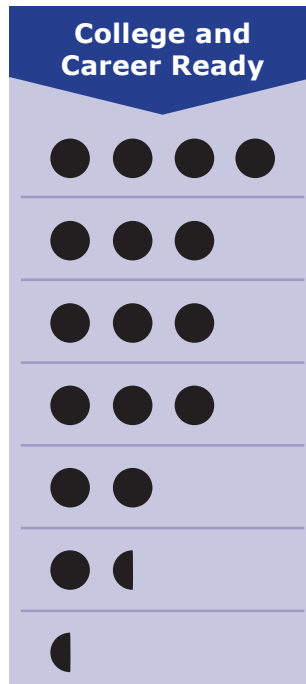


What is Core 24? Core 24 is the new set of credit requirements for high school graduation being considered by the Washington State Board of Education. Core 24 will require students to develop a high school and beyond plan and choose courses to help them achieve their goals. Core 24 requirements will provide students with a strong academic foundation, and the flexibility to prepare them for whatever path they choose—whether that's the workforce, an apprenticeship in the trades, or a community or four-year college.

Core 24



One Diploma -- Three Choices

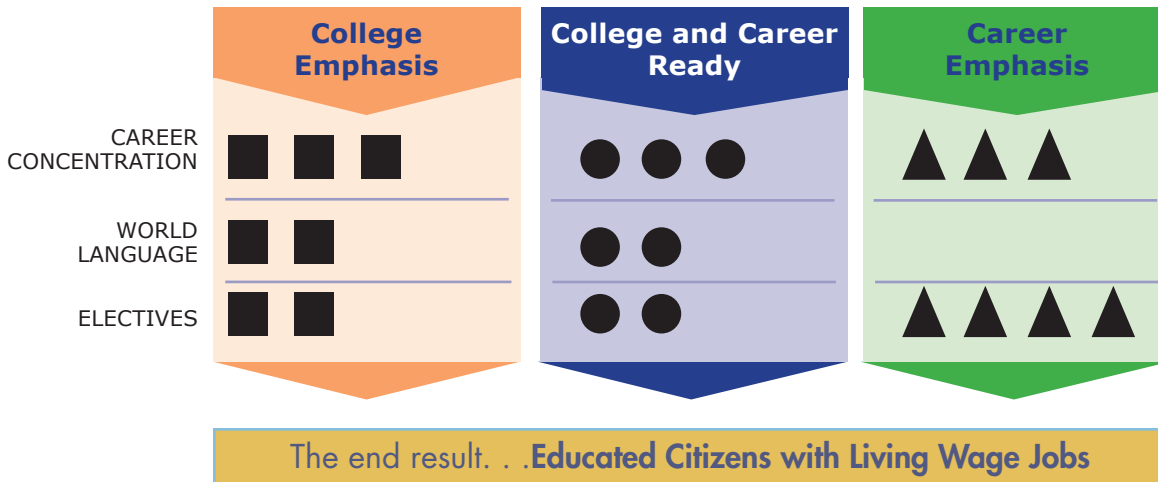
Students will enroll automatically in Core 24's college + career ready requirements.

All students will take Core 24's strong foundation of core subjects.

Students will have the flexibility to choose an emphasis based on their High School and Beyond Plan.

Students will also complete a culminating project to earn a diploma.

Students should take math their senior year if following the college and career-ready pathway.



NOTE: The Core 24 Implementation Task Force (ITF) will recommend a definition of career concentration to the Board in the spring of 2010.

Core 24 = Flexibility

CROSS CREDITING: Where appropriate, career and technical education-equivalent courses may be substituted.

THIRD MATH CREDIT: After completing algebra I and geometry, a student may elect a third rigorous, high school level math credit to replace algebra II/integrated math III with a math course that furthers their career path defined in the high school and beyond plan.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CONNECTION: Some requirements may be satisfied in middle school.

WAIVERS: Fitness credits can be waived as provided by state law.

EQUIP EVERYONE: Prepare ALL students for life after high school - in gainful employment, an apprenticeship, or postsecondary education.

EXPECT MORE: Align requirements to meet the increased expectations of the 21st century workforce.

PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY: Allow students to customize their education, creating relevance to their interests.

GIVE FOCUS: Encourage students to align course work to achieve their future goals.

PLAN AHEAD: Emphasize the High School and Beyond Plan to offer students personalized guidance to prepare them for work, postsecondary education, or both.

START EARLY: Prepare students to enter high school and create opportunities to meet high school graduation requirements in middle school.

Core 24 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What will Core 24 do for students? Core 24 is designed to provide students with the breadth and depth of knowledge/skills needed for just about any postsecondary endeavor. Core 24 also aligns with the current administration's goals of making America a leader in post secondary attainment. All students will be automatically enrolled in a set of Core 24 college and career ready requirements that are aligned with the Higher Education Coordinating Board minimum four-year public college admissions requirements. However, students will have an opportunity to elect alternative pathways, depending on their high school and beyond plan.

2. Will Core 24 be funded? As stated in the Board's Core 24 2008 adoption document, the implementation of the Core 24 graduation requirements policy framework will be contingent on funding. The Board further identified key funding areas for Core 24's implementation: instructional time, a comprehensive education and career guidance system, and additional support for struggling students. The Core 24 adoption document is available online at <http://www.sbe.wa.gov> (under "Meeting Materials" tab, then "July 2008 Board meeting materials.")

3. How and when will Core 24 be implemented? The SBE has charged an Implementation Task Force to recommend to the SBE policies and issues that will need to be considered to implement Core 24. Twenty education practitioners serve on the ITF. The ITF will finish their work in spring 2010. SBE will then consider the ITF recommendations for Core 24 implementation. The ITF has suggested to the SBE that Core 24 will need six years to phase in, once funding begins. Based on this timeline, if funding were to begin in 2011, phase-in would be complete for the Class of 2017. The SBE will advocate to begin funding as soon as possible, and will seriously consider the ITF recommendations. In the meantime, some districts will move ahead more quickly.

4. Core 24 needs to work with all students. How will this happen? Flexibility is built into Core 24 requirements through state laws and rules that:

- Create opportunities to earn credits through Career and Technical Education course-equivalents and apply them to graduation
- Create opportunities to earn credits in middle school.
- Enable districts, under limited circumstances, to waive specific graduation requirements
- Provide dual credit options for students to earn college and high school credit simultaneously
- Define procedures for granting high school graduation credits for students with special educational needs
- Give students the option of electing a different third credit of math
- Allow districts to award credit based on competency.

The Implementation Task Force may also recommend additional policy flexibility for the Board's consideration.

5. What happens if students fail something? Districts will need to help students, as they do now, recover credit for failed courses, using a variety of strategies such as scheduling extra classes, extending the school day, providing summer school, providing access to online learning, etc. Support for struggling students is essential to help students succeed.

6. How can districts prepare for Core 24? Some districts are anticipating Core 24 by redirecting current state and local resources to revise graduation requirements to better prepare students for life after high school. This decision is up to the district. Half of Washington's districts already require 24 or more credits to graduate, but all districts will need to make adjustments to adapt to Core 24.