

Analysis of Graduation Requirements Changes in House Bill 2538

Current Graduation Requirement	Background
A High School and Beyond Plan	<p><u>Rule Language</u></p> <p>WAC 180-51-066: Each student shall have a High School and Beyond Plan for their high school experience, including what they expect to do the year following graduation.</p>
	<p><u>When did it start?</u></p> <p>The High School and Beyond Plan requirement was instituted in 2004 for the class of 2008.</p>
	<p><u>Why do we have it?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intended to assess Basic Education Learning Goal Four of RCW 28A.150.210, specifically that students understand how work, performance, effort, and decisions affect future career and educational opportunities. • Intended to ensure intentionality in students' course-taking choices.
The Culminating Project	<p><u>Rule Language</u></p> <p>WAC 180-51-066: Each student shall complete a Culminating Project for graduation. The project shall consist of the student demonstrating both their learning competencies and preparations related to learning goals three and four. Each district shall define the process to implement this graduation requirement, including assessment criteria, in written district policy.</p>
	<p><u>When did it start?</u></p> <p>Instituted in 2004 for the class of 2008.</p>
	<p><u>Why do we have it?</u></p> <p>Intended to assess Basic Education Learning Goals Three and Four of RCW 28A.150.210, specifically that students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Think analytically, logically, and creatively to form reasoned judgments and solve problems, and (2) Understand how work, performance, effort, and decisions affect future career and educational opportunities.

Exemption to the Culminating Project and High School and Beyond Plan contained in SHB 2538	Does it align with the intent?	Discussion
Student is in a running start program and is leaving high school with an associate's degree.	YES	Basic Education Learning Goals Three and Four may be considered met for students who earn a degree, international diploma, or industry certificate.
Student completes high school Navigation 101, advancement via individual determination, or similar program focused on career planning and skill development in preparation for a targeted career.	NO	Completion of Navigation 101 could meet Basic Education Learning Goals Three and Four. Recommend strengthening the language to say " <u>A high school Navigation 101 or similar comprehensive guidance and planning program as defined in RCW 28A.600.045.</u> "
Student completes a career and technical education program resulting in a skill certificate.	YES	Basic Education Learning Goals Three and Four may be considered met for students who earn a degree, international diploma, or industry certificate.
Student completes a year of college-level coursework.	NO	A year of postsecondary coursework does not necessarily demonstrate intentional postsecondary planning, and it is not clear what constitutes a year. Would one dual credit course suffice? Two courses? A full load of Running Start classes?
Student completes an international baccalaureate certificate program.	YES	Basic Education Learning Goals Three and Four may be considered met for students who earn a degree, international diploma, or industry certificate. Slight edits to the language would make it consistent with RCW 28A.230.122.
Student completes at least four courses in any of the following programs or at least four courses among the following programs: AP, engineering or biological sciences, international baccalaureate, or Cambridge with college credit equivalency exams.	NO	Successful completion of four advanced courses is likely to address Basic Education Learning Goal Three, but is less clearly linked with Basic Education Learning Goal Four. Advanced coursework doesn't necessarily reflect intentional postsecondary planning.

Recommended Revisions to SHB 2538

(d) A student is not required to complete the state board's high school graduation requirement for a culminating project or a high school and beyond plan if the student has successfully completed and passed¹ at least one of the following:

- (i) A running start program and is leaving high school with an associate degree;
- (ii) A high school navigation 101, ~~advancement via individual determination,~~ or similar ~~program focused on career planning and skill development in preparation for a targeted career~~ career guidance and planning program as defined in RCW 28A.600.045²;
- (iii) A career and technical education program resulting in a skill certificate;
- ~~(iv) A year of college-level coursework;~~³
- ~~(v) (iv) An All required international baccalaureate certificate program diploma programme courses~~⁴
- ~~(vi) At least four courses in any of the following programs or at least four courses among the following programs: AP, engineering or biological sciences, international baccalaureate, or Cambridge with college credit equivalency exams.~~⁵

¹ Although “and passed” doesn’t apply to each of the programs listed, the additional language adds clarity.

² Eliminates the ambivalence of “similar programs” in exchange for a concrete definition.

³ A “year” is not defined. Is it one dual credit course per semester? A full 45 credits of college coursework? Full load of Running Start classes? Or something different?

⁴ These changes are consistent with the language of RCW 28A.230.122.

⁵ The completion of courses alone does not earn a student a credential, nor is it guided career planning or project-based.