Washington State Board of Education

### Waiver from Requirements of Chapter 180-51 WAC High School Graduation Requirements

*Updated May 30, 2012*

## Introduction

State-mandated, credit-based graduation requirements convey an expectation about the breadth and depth of learning expected of all students in order to earn a diploma in Washington State. The Legislature [delegated](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.230.090) to the State Board of Education (SBE) the authority to establish graduation requirements. SBE specifies requirements for students graduating in 2013 through2015 in WAC [180-51-066](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=180-51-066). Requirements for the class of 2016 will soon be published in WAC [180-51-067](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/WAC%20180-51-067.pdf). In addition, SBE defines a credit in WAC [180-51-050](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=180-51-050). [Revisions](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/WAC%20180-51-050.pdf) to WAC 180-51-050 were adopted in November 2011, and will soon be published as well.

In order to facilitate a transition from a time- and credit-based system of education to a standards and performance-based system, WAC [180-18-055](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=180-18-055) provides districts and high schools the opportunity to create and implement alternative graduation requirements.

A school district, high school with permission of the district board of directors, or approved private high school wishing to implement a local restructuring plan to provide an effective educational system to enhance the educational program for high school students may apply for a waiver from one or more of the requirements of chapter 180-51 WAC. The State Board of Education may grant the waiver for up to four school years.

A waiver of WAC 180-51-066 may be granted only under the following circumstances:

* The district or school demonstrates that any noncredit-based graduation requirements that will replace in whole or in part WAC 180-51-066 will support the state's performance-based education system under to RCW 28A.630.885, and
* The noncredit-based requirements meet the minimum college core admissions standards of the Higher Education Coordinating Board for students planning to attend a baccalaureate institution.

The application also shall include documentation that the high school is successful as demonstrated by indicators such as, but not limited to, the following:

* Clear expectations for student learning.
* Graduation rates for the last three years.
* Follow-up employment data for graduates from the last three years.
* College admission rates of graduates from the last three years.
* Use of student portfolios to document student learning.
* Student scores on the high school state assessments from the last three years.
* The level and types of family and parent involvement at the school.
* The school's annual performance reports from the last three years.
* The level of student, family, parent, and public satisfaction with the school as reflected in any survey done by the school during the last three years.

Any school or district granted a waiver under this chapter shall report annually to the State Board of Education, in a form and manner to be determined by the Board, on the progress and effects of implementing the waiver.

A waiver granted under this section may be renewed. Before filing the request, the school district will need to conduct at least one public meeting to evaluate the educational requirements that were implemented as a result of the waiver. The request must include:

* The systems implemented as a result of the waiver.
* The extent to which students are meeting high expectations.
* Assurances that students in advanced placement or other postsecondary options programs are not disadvantaged.
* A summary of the comments received at the public meeting or meetings.

## Application Procedure

Please send:

* This completed application form.
* A resolution adopted by the board of directors requesting the waiver.
* Supporting documentation (see section two of the application) for restructuring the educational program of one or more high schools.

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Please provide the application document in Word format and fax or email the signed school board resolution.

### Application for Waiver from Requirements of Chapter 180-51 WAC High School Graduation Requirements

The following questions are for all renewal and new applications. Please include as much detail as possible.

## 1. Contact Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Title |  |
| School District |  |
| Phone |  |
| Email |  |
| Mailing Address |  |

**Application Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Type of Application (new or renewal) |  |
| School(s) Impacted by the Waiver |  |
| School Years Subject to the Waiver (maximum of four years) |  |
| Date of Application |  |

2. Supporting documentation for new and renewal applications is attached to document the following (check all):

☐ The school’s expectations for student learning.

☐ The graduation rate for the high school(s) for the last three school years.

☐ Any available follow-up employment data for the high school’s graduates for the last three years.

☐ The system for documenting student learning (e.g., student portfolios, etc.).

☐ Student scores on the high school HSPE and EOCs for the past three years.

☐ The school’s annual performance report for the last three years.

☐ The types of family and parent involvement at the school.

☐ The level of student, family, parent, and public satisfaction and confidence in the school as reflected in any survey done by the school in the last three years.

3. [WAC 180-51-050](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=180-51-050) (pending [revisions](http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/WAC%20180-51-050.pdf) adopted November 10, 2011) permits districts to award credit based on competency. Please explain why the current credit-based graduation requirements limit the high school’s or district’s ability to implement a standards and performance-based approach to learning, and require a waiver.

4. Identify the requirements of chapter 180-51 WAC to be waived.

5. Please explain how state graduation assessment requirements and federal highly qualified teacher requirements will be met.

6. Please provide documentation and rationale that any noncredit based graduation requirements that replace in whole or in part WAC 180-51-066 support the state’s performance-based education system (e.g., state standards).

7. What systems will be put in place to help students meet the learning expectations, and how will the district or school determine if those systems are successful?

8. What evidence is available demonstrating that the board of directors, teachers, administrators, and classified employees are committed to working cooperatively in implementing the plan?

9. What evidence is available demonstrating that students, families, parents, and citizens were involved in developing this plan?

10. Please provide documentation and rationale that any noncredit-based graduation requirements that replace in whole or in part WAC 180-51-066 meet the minimum College Academic Distribution Requirements established by the Higher Education Coordinating Board for students planning to attend a baccalaureate institution.

*For Renewal Applications Only:*

8. When was the public meeting held to evaluate the educational requirements that were implemented as a result of the waiver?

9. Provide a summary of the comments received at the public meeting or meetings.

10. Provide information regarding the systems implemented as a result of the previous waiver.