



THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governance | Accountability | Achievement | Oversight | Career & College Readiness

May 2, 2014

Ms. Maud Dahme, Chair
Washington State Achievement Council
917 Lakeridge Way SW
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Chair Dahme and Members of the Student Achievement Council:

As you know, since 2006, the State Board of Education has undertaken efforts to strengthen high school graduation requirements in Washington State. The Board was motivated by a belief that all students have a right to be held to high standards of academic achievement, and that the high school diploma should prepare students for college and career.

We are pleased to share with you that, effective with the graduating class of 2019, high school graduation requirements are changing to reflect a career and college-ready framework. Included among these important changes is a requirement that all students complete 3 credits of science, two of which must be laboratory science courses.

In the initial stages of seeking these improvements to high school graduation requirements, the State Board of Education and the former Higher Education Coordinating Board shared a belief that the CADR requirements (College Academic Distribution Requirements used for minimum college entry) should be increased if the 24-credit framework were ever implemented, to foster alignment between the two systems of education.

In light of this exciting new development in implementing a career and college-ready diploma in Washington State, the Board is asking the Council to consider modifying the CADR requirements to include a third credit of science. We believe this is in the best interests of all students, but would also provide an excellent example of our two boards working together to foster policy alignment between K-12 and higher education.

On behalf of the State Board of Education,

Dr. Kristina Mayer, Chair
State Board of Education

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