

**Association of Washington Student Leaders
Wishes, Wants, Concerns about Graduation
January 2021**

Junior, ESD 121

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

Well, as a junior, that list stresses me out. I haven't been able to take any exams like the SBAC and I have gotten no information from my school about the SAT and ACT. I am a full-time running start student who is taking an extra class at my high school and I know how difficult it is and how it can easily be unrealistic for a lot of students.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

Frankly it seems daunting. Every student I know already has so much on their plate and we feel lost, floundering in confusion as we try and figure what to do next.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Considering the current time, I know this will not work for every student. Although school is hard enough right now, finding out the requirements make it feel a little impossible.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

No standardized exams. That is the dream because the attempt at an "across the board" measurement strips students of their individuality and propels those who are actually good at taking tests. Students shouldn't have benchmarks of knowledge, they should have an inclusive way to show what they have learned. Most importantly, they are inflexible which is a misrepresentation of the real world, what we actually need to know about.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

Honestly, every day is a slap in the face. I am alone and don't know what to do to get to where I need to be. It's scary.



Senior, ESD 123

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

The current pathway options seem viable. The positive part is that there are so many options. What's missing is an option for lower level learning or for students that completely lack opportunity to anything listed, especially with the online model were in now.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

They aren't flexible enough for changing or replacing courses.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

That students all approach graduation differently and should not be expected to succeed at the same rate.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

Physical Education should not be required unless they plan to take their education further in that field.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

That school is hard, and graduation should not be as much of an expectation and more of a celebrated success.

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Freshman, ESD 101

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

This seems to be unproblematic to me.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

I have no concerns except for the test scores. I don't test well on school things like map tests and SBAC normally so meeting a certain requirement to graduate makes me nervous because I am smart and am on track to have more than enough credits.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Nothing for now

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

I am not sure.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

requirements?

It hasn't really, I'm young enough to not worry about it too much yet.



Senior, ESD 121

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

There is no pathway for the arts. The main goal of high school and part of the mission of SBE is to prepare for students for post-secondary education. As long as they have a plan, then that's what they want. Students who take art in all of its forms deserve a chance to show that reflected in something that is deemed "valid" by the state.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

They are so inflexible. Students cannot struggle. There is no room for it and I think the value that is shown through a 24-credit requirement cultivates students with high rates of anxiety, depression, and afraid of risk.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Whatever you choose to make law is an exact reflection of what you value. Step into a classroom, talk to students and watch as your values shift.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

Create a HSBP that tangibly gives tools for students to create future. A MEANINGFUL high school and beyond plan that healthily bridges students between the confusion of today to the confusion of tomorrow.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

It just shows how u prepared we are for special circumstances. In my mind, every student is a special circumstance. We are all living a different life with different barriers and aspirations and now more than ever, it shows how unequipped our system is to handle the students of the state. We need to reflect on the holes in the requirements because I know that the majority of students are struggling through this year at such an intense level and the weight of such requirements is not helping.



Freshman, ESD 121

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts

regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I feel that it deals out many plans that could work for many different student pathways, which I find to be positive. I think it does a thorough job of allowing many different types of students to graduate. There a few scenarios where I believe some students could fall through the net...

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

I dislike the necessity that students must succeed in English, because it could put students who don't have English as a first language at a disadvantage, even if they succeed in other classes and have the ability to graduate if they were born here. However, that is such a core concept in the document, I'm not entirely sure how that could be changed. I also feel that students who are able to pursue real world jobs but have mental handicaps could be kept back by these requirements, even if they could find a job, because many jobs legally require a high school graduation. Possibly there should be a second document that details what students in accentuating circumstances are required to accomplish in order to graduate, so they may also be able to have as average a life after high school as possible.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

I dislike how they include the SAT and ACT in such an official document, because from an educational standpoint they aren't proven to be accurate indicators of student education and I think passing or not passing should have no impact on a student's graduation.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

It would be to make SAT and ACT scores completely irrelevant to all student's graduations.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

I used to feel that everyone should have a standard grade in each of their classes, for instance "Math, Social Studies, Science, and English classes would all have to be a C," or something of that nature. Now I realize that especially with online learning that that just isn't possible for all students, even if they are intellectually fit. I now think that the graduation requirements for the time during when schools are quarantined should be changed even further because it's placed every student at a disadvantage, and previously disadvantaged students even further separated. Therefore, it really just doesn't make sense for us to be held to the same standards as we were before COVID-19.



Junior, ESD 121

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

One of the biggest thoughts I have is the last [pathway] about CTE courses, it definitely seems difficult to reach. I know that personally, I try to take as many AP classes as I want and having this requirement of one year of CTE classes has really made it hard for me to have the chance to take another AP if I were to choose to do so. I think potentially considering stuff outside of school that is still giving students a progression toward their post-secondary pathway would be more beneficial. For instance, if a student was very interested in healthcare, volunteering at the hospital for a certain amount of time would be more beneficial than having to take a CTE class that they're not as interested in. Other opportunities outside of school essentially.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

I believe the only concern is whether or not some students will be able to receive the CTE credits as it might be difficult to fit into their schedule or there's not available classes that somewhat align with their post-secondary interest.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

I think adults should understand that just as their time is valuable, so are student's time. I completely agree with majority of the graduation requirements such as math and science, but I believe classes such as CTE should have the chance to learn through outside opportunities.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

I would say that outside opportunities should count for CTE if they were to align with a post-secondary interest. This way students would start to learn more in the real world juggling real experience with their interest rather than having to take a class at their school simply for the credit. It doesn't foster student learning as much and we should always make it a goal for students to like what they learn!

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

Through Covid-19, I believe although we need to have set requirements that need to be completed, we should also be a bit more generous on some of the classes that aren't as important. I can't imagine being a 2021 senior and not only having just about all of my senior year virtual and alone, and THEN having to deal with graduation requirements that sometimes don't make sense to students. Perhaps keeping that in mind and looking at how affected seniors already have been, that's something we should consider. I also believe one thing to mention about graduation is potentially doing outdoor ceremonies this coming summer if the situation is at a point where we cannot revert back to normal graduation ceremonies. It would be placing students 6ft apart on a football field and wearing custom made grad masks, but it would be something small that could still ensure students get to have a little bit of the graduation they have been hoping for years now.



When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

Of all of the options, the first [pathway] is the one I believe that is easiest for all students to accomplish [assessment]. The Washington State Assessments were something that all of the students in my school HAD to take, meaning there was a fair and equal opportunity for all students to meet that requirement to graduate.

The second, third, and fourth [pathways – dual credit, AP, IB, SAT] all require money in order to accomplish them- money that a large percentage of the students cannot afford. Of course, there are fee waivers and other ways for students to obtain the money, but not all students are aware that those options even exist.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

There are so many specific requirements for high school students to meet now in order to graduate, which is forcing students into courses that they do not want to take.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Most high school students do not start paying attention to graduation requirements until their junior year of high school, which is also the time in their lives where they start to focus on their 5th year plans. When I was a junior in high school, I knew that I wanted to study business in college after I graduate. But when it came time to pick the courses for my senior year, I didn't have enough room in my schedule to take a business class because there were so many other classes that I was forced to take in order to graduate. So instead, I now spend an hour every day in a painting class, instead of Business 101 where I would be getting a taste of what I will be focusing on in the next four years of college, because I am forced to do so.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

As much as I love art, I believe it should count as an elective and not a graduation requirement. Taking 2 whole years of an art class rather than a class that I know will be much more beneficial to my future is upsetting. Especially for those who are not big art fans.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

Covid has actually taken away a lot of stress from graduation requirements by lightening our load. For example, typically we are required a certain number of community service hours to graduate, but this year seniors can graduate with zero community service hours. However, regarding graduation, Covid has made me worried that I might not be able to walk this year. As a middle schooler, I remember seeing the seniors in their caps and gowns, super excited to celebrate the end of high school, and getting extremely excited for that to one day be me. After missing already so much of this last year, I really really hope that the graduation

ceremony will not be canceled.

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Junior, ESD 114

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

It's a lot of work and lot of credits

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

That they are overbearing. It forces things upon kids and worries them

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Make fewer requirements, make it easier, help them. Anything really

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

Maybe the ASVAB i would remove, and a couple of others i would change

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

It's made it harder and even more stressful than before.

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Junior, ESD 121

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I have no issue with it right now

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

None right now

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Basically, adding in an ethnic studies as a requirement but I know that ain't coming anytime soon so the requirement for graduation right now are ok to me

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

I would mayyybbee take out the CTE requirement because I feel that schools don't explain its purpose to students which ends up in students wasting credits on classes that have no correlation to their personal pathways so it can be damaging to a lot, in which I've talked with a bunch of students who have wasted it on classes like culinary arts for a CTE credit when their path is to major in mathematics for example. The purpose the CTE just isn't implemented properly through schools to students.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

It hasn't impacted my thoughts about graduation too much but I know a lot of people are really struggling with this whole online thing and the pressure leads to poor academic performance so maybe graduation requirements could make a few accommodations or little changes to pick up for that. We got people under 18 experiencing life changing events right now and as important as school is, we would all choose to deal with our urgent lively issues first than to hand in a couple late assignments.

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Senior, ESD 189

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I am especially excited about the CTE pathway option. For students who struggle with testing and conventional high school learning, it will be huge. I do wonder about where running start kids fit into this. Do they still have to pass a standardized test to graduate?

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

That students may not be aware of them. Especially in COVID times, communication is more than important. It is vital that students are aware of the pathways they can take to graduate.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

integral for their success and stress-management in high school. Knowing that there are creative routes outside of standardized testing for students to graduate will make a real impact on the lives of many students.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

I would create a more situation-based pathway that can award a struggling student graduation based on their growth and effort over their high school career. This would mostly regard seniors who do not have any of the other requirements for graduation, but who are willing to put in the work to thrive in their classes and succeed their senior year.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation

requirements?

I believe that especially this year, graduation requirements should be flexible based on situation. I know of many intelligent and hardworking students who are earning NCs/Fs in their classes due to the downfalls of online school. The online model works fine for some students, but for others it simply isn't possible to thrive. I do not believe that the students who are not thriving due to the difficulties of online school should be barred from graduating this year.

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Senior, ESD 112

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I don't see much problems, but I like how many options there are here.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

At my school, we need to take 1.5 years of P.E and I think it should be changed to only 1 year. But I am not sure if that applies to Washington state graduation requirements.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

That we don't benefit from doing career cursing/Xello. My school said that is a graduation requirement, but I honestly don't believe that doing that helps.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

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How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

My school district has been online this whole year, so I don't have much hope that we will get a graduation, although I really want it. I have realized that my friends in running start have not been affected by remote learning compared to my friends (including myself) doing full-time school. As I am finishing my graduation requirements, I realize that it matters less than I had previously thought.

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Senior, ESD 189

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I don't see any problems with it. Something very positive I see is that there are so many options

for many types of students. I appreciate that students aren't limited to one particular path. Students have different goals and have different paths that suit them, so I think these pathway options are spectacular.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

One thing that concerns me is that graduation requirements (at least at my school) have been inconsistent. At my school the Class of 2021 is Core 24, meaning we need 24 credits to graduate. I don't think this is constructive. While it's very important for students to learn accountability and be prepared for after graduation, I don't think such strict limits are beneficial to anybody. In my opinion, it constricts students and adds unneeded stress. Nobody is perfect and I don't believe on failed class should hold anybody back. I know this may not apply to all classes, schools or districts but that's my take on Core 24. Overall, I think we need many graduation paths (like the ones listed above). I don't think students should slack but I don't think they should be held to such high standards of perfection. So, I'd say just make sure graduation requirements are fair but also attainable for all students who apply themselves.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Graduation is very stressful for many. I think adults and policy-makers should make graduation requirements easier to understand for students. It can get confusing quickly.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

I would make graduation requirement options the same across Washington, so that there aren't any inconsistencies in graduation for different students. I would also like to see counselors discuss graduation more openly and more frequently for students. Students should also be made aware of their options.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

Personally, graduation hasn't changed much for me. I'm on track to graduate, so I haven't given it too much thought, but I can also see how Covid is probably putting extreme pressure on certain students. It has been a hard time for everybody, and online/modified learning has changed education completely without any major changes to graduation requirements. It's a tough situation.



Junior, ESD 123

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

For what I understand of this, it looks good. I do not have much to say about this.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

My graduation requirements have recently been changed (within the past two years) and so I am pretty familiar with how they are rigorous but still perfectly attainable.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

I have no idea about what to expect in regards to state testing. I have not taken a major exam since the eighth grade and, si se my class is very unlucky, none of my juniors have taken practice test for the state test(s). I have no idea what they are, when to expect them, who to ask about them, how to prepare, where to focus, why we take them, how long they last, and/or whether we are still taken them.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

If I had a magic wand, I would make grad requirements partially more personalize-able for students. Maybe something like arts/science associate's but for high school diplomacy. Also, I would make seniors and juniors of this year get a "Corona free pass" or something for state test on college applications.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

I am slightly nervous about what to expect but I am not really too concerned. I am ahead and could have graduated early but decided to save some credits to go to running start. I am simply open to creative graduation ideas and focusing on finishing school rather than being amidst the sometimes drama of school/people.

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Senior, ESD 105

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I don't see any problems

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

I don't have any, maybe that they don't include as many pathways for arts-based students.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

I can't really think of anything

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

Maybe to have more consistent rules regarding credits like I don't know why my high school has

a higher credit requirement than others. Also, to reevaluate the senior portfolios, they are tedious and outdated in my opinion

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

To COVID is my normal so to think of life outside of it is difficult. My senior year is as it is and I can't really say the impact that COVID has had. my only worry is that I won't be ready for college because of the new system of high school, but maybe I will just be more prepared, who knows.

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Senior, ESD 112

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I think the CTE credits should just be general CTE credits, so it allows students to explore what they are passionate about and not have to stick to the pathway they selected

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

I think 24 credits can be a lot for certain students. It is okay, we just need to make sure we are giving them sufficient ways to make up lost credits. I am also not the biggest fan of 24 credits because it doesn't leave as much room for students to explore what they are passionate about. Yes, some of those are elective credits but they are bogged down by extra conditions of other credits they have to meet.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Make sure you are taking into account all types of students like students that don't have certain resources or time at home. Credits and especially credit recovery needs to be flexible to provide for the student. You can't expect every student to fit into one little box when you don't know what is going on in their life.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

Either reduce fine arts credits or replace them with some sort of CTE/Personalized pathway credits. Not all kids are passionate about the arts and know what they want to do so those classes aren't necessary for them. Also, in school when you aren't passionate about something it becomes a lot easier to become apathetic towards homework and you will have kids in classes to check a box, not to learn. I am NOT saying to cut funding for arts because that is important for a lot of students. I just think that when it comes to electives it should be about exploring or pursuing your passions, not filling a credit.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

I used to think that the 24 credits was no big deal, "why shouldn't everyone pass all their classes?", and many other similar thoughts. I loved school and learning and excelled at it. Then this year, COVID hit me hard and made school very difficult and something that I don't want to participate in. I also know it has made many others feel that way and although that is not a reason to fail all of your classes, it puts things into perspective. Life is hard and things get thrown at you. That's why schools, graduation requirements, and credit recovery need to be accommodating and creative because when students are going through a hard time schools and the state should be helping them get back up and thrive, not be the thing pushing them even further down.



Senior, ESD 171

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

A few of my thoughts regarding the current pathways, are that they are quite similar to those we would follow if we were in a normal situation/ no pandemic. One positive I see is that there is a variation of options which is good. Something that I see missing is an option for a personalized pathway, what I mean by this is that in our current situation having an option that can directly be adjusted to any students that is not one set in stone pathway. There needs to be more flexibility in the pathways specially in these situations. Not one set pathway will fit every students' needs. I see a lot of equity issues that can come up. The pathways don't necessarily take in account factors that can and have affected students' performance in any learning platform. We can't expect students to achieve the same requirements in a pandemic the way they would in a normal situation.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

I am concerned that leaders will have the mindset to believe that students have already adapted to these difficult transitions when in reality everything is changing day by day. I fear that this will lead to believing that students will be able to meet the same requirements as if they weren't in an online platform or a variation of a hybrid platform. We must take into account that students across the state are facing remotely different situations therefore a flexible pathway that takes into account each individual students' needs will be the best option to ensure the success of every graduating seniors this year.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Most graduation requirements for most part change year after year. Each upcoming graduating class has to rely upon the adults and policy makers to create an attainable graduation requirements. We can't continue to put students through stress and anxious filled months of work in order for them to guarantee their eligibility to graduate.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to

graduation requirements, what would it be?

I would improve the communication and openness of these requirements. What I mean by this is to make them more transparent and allow students to know ahead of time what they need in order to graduate. I would change the continuation of changes made year after year that then are slammed upon that years graduating class.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

Well we must not forget the the class of 2020 was practically allowed to graduate whether or not they meet some of these requirements through a COVID pandemic. And they only struggled through about 3 months of this. This year’s class has had to struggle there entire year and we still haven’t decided what these students need to graduate! The mindlessness of this is unbelievable. We have to make sure we are transparent to all students with these requirements and we must ensure they are equitable, attainable, and mindful of the year this year’s seniors have gone through. To sum it all up COVID has changed my feelings/ thoughts of how rigorous these requirements must be.



Senior, ESD 114

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I think that all of these options are great, but I might add an option for fluency in a foreign language to graduate.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

N/A

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

I know that this is not on here, but the Core 24 system is not a great way to help everyone graduate. My school uses this system and it doesn't account for major things that could be happening outside a student’s life that takes them away from school.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

N/A

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

I am a senior and over 60 percent of my class is likely not to graduate because they are not passing one or more of their classes. That is why I do not like the core 24 system because we have been hit with this thing that we cannot control and have to not fail a class through this

major event.

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Junior, ESD 189

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I feel like this graduation pathway is pretty good. It seems to give a lot of options for students to get the requirements they need. I like that there are other options to gain the requirements/pathways then just being in College in the HS/AP classes and doing well on tests.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

It seems really simple of an AP student to gain a graduation requirement, so maybe if there was a way to give more opportunity for students not in those classes.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

I wish that adults talked to us more about them throughout high school. I know I've seen them before, but I didn't remember any of the details. This is such an important thing to know-- so maybe they should just reiterate them more throughout the years.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

they seem ok to me, so maybe just more clarification on the description.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

Covid has made me much more stressed about graduation and requirements. I feel like because I'm not in the building I will not get all the things I need done to graduate, and it freaks me out a bit that I can't easily go talk to my counselor about it. We can still email, but it's just not the same as hearing the info everyday just because you're in the building.

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Junior, ESD 101

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I honestly don't have much to say, the only thing I don't see mentioned here is P.E which I think needs to be changed to better fit each individual student and maybe not even require it for graduation.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

I am a little confused on what these are to be honest, I have seen and heard much different ones like you need 3 years of math 4 of English and so on.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

That P.E should not be required. If they wanted to improve health the lunch program would be a better place to start.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

Again, P.E

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

It seems confusing, I don't feel like I have gotten much guidance on any of it at my school other than you must take certain classes or you won't graduate.

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Junior, ESD 105

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

A positive that I see is that we're allowed to take courses in technical careers. The exposure will open possibilities for countless students.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

Aside from required credits, is there anything I'm supposed to do still? I would like it to be laid out in a way that is easily to understand, visuals are good.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Understand and acknowledge that there is wide wealth gap. It should always be in the back of their mind as they are writing up these requirements.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

I would like to get rid of the SAT and ACT for it opens and shuts doors for students. It is at the detriment to those who have to assist their families.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

There has been a lack of communication at my school and others can attest to this. I know many

people who simply do not care anymore and are at risk of not graduating.

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Senior, ESD 123

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I believe that the career pathways are good the way they currently are. There are enough options that the students are able to choose from.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

My one concern would be if a school doesn't offer certain classes like AP or College in the High School. It would limit the options that students have.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

Which schools offer which options and to help schools that don't have AP, IB, CTE, or college in the high school classes. I feel that making sure all schools offer at least one English and one math class that was in one of those categories would help improve the graduation rate from those schools.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

Being a senior, this is the first time I've seen the chart that is in this survey. For future classes I think that it should be required that schools do at least one orientation that before senior year so students can know what their options are. While our school does have an advisory class, this leaves out students that are taking classes outside of just the high school (running start/technical school). Also, not all advisory teachers take the time to explain the graduation requirements. Therefore, I believe an information might or orientation would be beneficial to the students.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

Covid hasn't changed my feeling and thoughts about graduation requirements. I still believe that the way graduation requirements are set up provides variety and options for the students. I am concerned about how many students are failing their math or English class with many not having reliable internet access or access to tutoring. I am also concerned to how graduation will be set up and whether the students will get a say into what kind of ceremony they would like.

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Senior, ESD 121

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

Positive: CTE courses are a great requirement to have

Missing: Students' social-emotional well-being and recognizing those challenges. Students are not robots. There should be requirements, or at least advisory, regarding career pathway courses and maybe even clubs and activities.

Concerns: There are no set standards for the IB program or Cambridge International program as there is for AP, standardized testing is heavily relied on, and there is little to no career pathway requirements for students to explore postsecondary careers or education routes.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

There are no set standards for the IB program or Cambridge International program as there is for AP, standardized testing is heavily relied on, and there is little to no career pathway requirements for students to explore postsecondary careers or education routes.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

standardized tests do not define a student.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

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How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a huge toll on education, and I believe that policymakers should recognize that and adapt requirements.

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Sophomore, ESD 112

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

meet or exceed the graduation scores in the Washington state assessments in English language arts and mathematics

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

Nothing except I am not a senior yet as it does not require to me as of yet but to a lot of people it does, so I just hope the state understands how stressed kids are with work and there home life as it is now mixed in one since we have been home doing school.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

That in this generation it is hard for kids to work while dealing with their home life. It is different from when they went to school, and 10x harder for kids to learn online rather than in person. They should just know kids are trying.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

That it is lenient.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

It has impacted a lot for me. It scares me as I haven't done as good as I usually would when I'm in school, but we are trying as students we know we can't fail so we are giving our best.

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Junior, ESD 121

When you see what the current Graduation Pathway Options, what are your thoughts regarding the current pathway options? What is positive? What is missing? What problems/issues do you see if any?

I believe there should be more effort/value put into CTE classes. i had none at my old school Bellevue Big Picture, and if there are classes, they're not required. AP classes were also not really offered. I have never heard of the transitional courses, Cambridge international exams, or ASVAB. There needs to be more STEM courses because the future is STEM and especially lower income areas would benefit from them a lot.

What concerns do you have regarding the current graduation requirements?

I feel like there should be more importance put on STEM courses and finance related courses. they're so important and are very beneficial to our future careers.

What is something you wish adults/policy-makers knew regarding graduation requirements?

English is hard. i literally struggle so much with it. the fact that science and math is required less than English and social studies, is honestly just unfair to those who don't understand it but would prefer to take courses that are giving them more hands on courses.

If you could wave a magic wand and make an improvement/change/modification to graduation requirements, what would it be?

have less required courses and more courses that are like personal pathway where you take things that apply for you.

How has COVID, impacted your feelings/thoughts surrounding graduation and graduation requirements?

i feel like i'm not going to pass courses as easily due to the emotional stress. i literally went to a mental hospital because it got so bad. school is just so difficult and it's just so hard for teachers to cover all of the content they originally taught, especially for ap classes.