



The Washington State BOARD OF EDUCATION



The State Board recently approved a law that was designed to help students impacted by COVID-19 school building closures. The law created the Emergency Waiver Program. After a district has tried all other appropriate options to help a student receive credit, then an individual student may be granted a waiver.

The Emergency Waiver Program

School districts can apply for a waiver that gives students more flexibility in graduation requirements. High school seniors impacted by COVID-19 school building closures may have certain requirements waived if they are not able to earn the credit. The priority is for districts to help students earn credit, and the waiver is reserved as a final option. **Districts should consider all the options, decide which ones are possible, and think about the student's needs.**

Districts must make sure students who are given the waiver:

- were **on-track to graduate** this school year (19-20),
- and could not complete required credits even though the school district made a **good faith effort** to help the student earn the credit.

The waiver **does not** address:

- potential impacts on earlier grades or students graduating after this school year.
- local graduation requirements, like grades for a specific course or projects.
- missed hours/days for public schools.

The limit on number of credits waived is based on what a student was enrolled in or planning to reasonably complete by the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Waived graduation requirement credits may include both core credit graduation requirements and flexible credit graduation requirements.

Students are expected to meet other graduation requirements, although there may be flexibility in how they meet them.

Find more information, frequently asked questions, and guidance on the State Board of Education website:
sbe.wa.gov/emergencywaivers.

"On-track to graduate"
means the student has completed or is enrolled in courses that would meet the state graduation requirements by the end of the 2019-20 school year.*

"Good faith effort"
means the district considered and implemented options to support individual students in meeting credit requirements. This could mean awarding credit based on competency, where the student shows their learning through a portfolio, presentation, or other assessment option allowed by their district.

**If a term had not yet started by February 29, 2020 (e.g. trimester schools, Running Start, or summer school), then the student's planned coursework may also count as "on-track."*