



EMERGENCY WAIVER PROGRAM

Learn more at sbe.wa.gov/emergencywaivers



The Legislature passed a law (2021 EHB 1121) designed to help students impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The law provided the State Board of Education (SBE) the authority to create the **Graduation Requirements Emergency Waiver** program to waive certain graduation requirements. After a district has tried all appropriate options to help a student meet credit and graduation pathway requirements, then a district may waive credit or pathway requirements for individual students.

What will a district need to do?

District-level actions

- Apply to the State Board of Education for authority to grant the waiver.
- Adopt a resolution and plan for the waiver process, including a design for family and student communications that are culturally responsive.
- Collect data on the use of the waiver, analyze the data for disproportionate use of the waiver, and take appropriate steps to implement the waiver more equitably if necessary. Report this data to OSPI and SBE.

Student-level actions

- Demonstrate a **good faith effort**¹ to support students in meeting graduation requirements prior to considering the waiver.
- Work with eligible students to individually assess postsecondary preparation, give guidance on options, and whether the use of the waiver is right for the student.
- Document the use of the waiver in student records, including how students **demonstrated preparation for their postsecondary plans**.²

What can be waived?

Graduation requirements can be waived under this program include credit graduation requirements and graduation pathway options. The waiver program is a last resort and an extra tool to help students. The High School and Beyond Plan cannot be waived.

How many credits and what kind?

Up to two elective or core credits may be waived for the Classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022, as long as only one credit in each core subject area is waived, and the student graduates with no fewer than 20 total credits. Additionally, the requirements waived for the individual student will be based on those least applicable to their postsecondary plans. The waiver **does not** address:

- Local graduation requirements. Districts have authority to address these issues locally.
- Missed hours/days for public schools.

Resources

[SBE Emergency Waiver Program webpage](#) | [Emergency Waiver Program FAQ](#)

1. **“Good faith effort”** means the district considered and implemented options to support individual students in meeting credit and pathway requirements. This could include: awarding credit based on mastery-based learning; expanded or extended learning opportunities; dual credit; Career and Technical Education (CTE) course equivalencies; and students’ awareness of and ability to access available assessments used for graduation pathway options.

2. **Demonstrated postsecondary preparation”** means the student has demonstrated skills and knowledge indicating preparation for the next steps identified in their High School and Beyond Plan and for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and civic engagement.