

LEAGUE OF EDUCATION VOTERS™

Implementation of a meaningful high school diploma

July 2, 2014

Working to improve
public education
in Washington State
from cradle to career
with ample, equitable,
and stable funding

In this LEVinar:

What's all the fuss about? The rules process for the College and Career Ready Diploma

- Short overview of the College and Career Ready Diploma
- Changes to the high school graduation requirements
- Increased Flexibility
- Preserving the “Core 17” credits
- Equity implications
- We need your help!

Thank you!

- State Legislators
 - Explicitly attempting to prepare students to be successful by increasing rigor and achievement, including attaining a meaningful high school diploma.
 - Allocating \$97 million towards implementation.
- State Board of Education
 - The proposed rules are a very good start toward strong implementation of the new high school graduation requirements.
 - Incorporated feedback from many different perspectives.

Overview of high school graduation requirements

Subject Area	Current Graduation Requirements	New Graduation Requirements
English	4	4
Math	3	3
Lab Science	2 (1 lab)	3 (2 lab)
Social Studies	3	3
World Language	0	2*
Career and Tech. Ed.	1	1
Health and Fitness	2	2
Arts	1	2*
General Electives	4	4
Items in red are insufficient to get into a Washington State 4-year public university (CADR).		
Items in green are how the College and Career Ready Diploma fixes that.		
* = some or all may be substituted by Personalized Pathway Requirement		

This chart is also available online at <http://www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/GradRequirements/GraduationReqsSignedByGov2014.pdf>

What's changing?

- Overall credits will increase from 20 to 24
- Math (credits remain at 3)
 - Algebra II is no longer the default 3rd year
 - Third credit may be chosen by the student with agreement of the student's parents/guardian or counselor/principal.
- Science (credits increase from 2 to 3)
 - Lab sciences increase from 1 to 2
 - Third credit may be chosen by the student with agreement of the student's parents/guardian or counselor/principal.
- Art (increases from 1 to 2 credits*)
- World Languages or Personalized Pathway (adds 2 credits)

* 1 of the 2 art credits may be used instead toward a student's personalized pathway

Local school districts will have more flexibility to meet individual student needs

- 7 of the 24 credits can be used toward a student's particular interests and intended path after high school
 - 4 elective credits
 - 3 additional credits may be used (1 of the art credits and both of the world language credits)
- The “Core 17” includes a Career and Technical Education credit
- Course equivalencies in math and science
- 2-credit waiver...

Individual students will be able to get up to 2 credits waived

- 6552 authorizes school districts to waive up to 2 credits for individual students based on “unusual circumstances”
 - School boards must adopt a written policy
 - Law directs WSSDA to develop a model policy
 - SBE’s proposed rules reinforce that these credits cannot come out of “Core 17” credits.

If implemented poorly, the new graduation requirements could be **LESS** rigorous

- If “Core 17” graduation requirements can be waived, students could receive a high school diploma:
 - With Algebra I as their only math credit
 - With only one science credit
 - With only two English credits
 - With no arts credits
- Opening up “Core 17” credits for waivers could lead to significantly different graduation requirements throughout the state.

Some are pushing to allow any of the 24 credits to be waived and weaken graduation requirements

- Flexibility?
 - *The framework provides for more flexibility than ever.*
- Legislative intent?
 - *Law explicitly mentions two SBE resolutions that make clear “Core 17” credits were not to be waived.*
- Burden on school district?
 - *Over 100 districts already require 24 or more credits*
 - *over 100 more have 22 require 22 credits or more.*
 - *Legislature allocated \$97 million for implementation*

We need the State Board of Education to stay firm and stick up for our most vulnerable

- School districts are under tremendous pressure to increase their graduation rates.
- School districts and their hired guns are already fighting hard for the ability to waive “Core 17” credits.
- By allowing kids to waive the courses that are most difficult for them, we are allowing the public education system to give up on them.
- This has the potential to further widen existing gaps and freeze societal inequities.

What You Can Do

- Participate in Action Alerts – public officials pay attention to numbers! Ours is online at <http://bit.ly/new-diploma>
- Write or visit the State Board of Education. Learn more at <http://educationvoters.org/advocacy-agenda/k-12/college-and-career-ready-high-school-diploma>
- Write or visit your State Legislator.
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder>
- Share stories with others to get them engaged on why this matters and help them learn what they can do about it.
- Contact us to get involved. Kelly Munn, State Field Director:
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QUESTIONS?

