

Graduation Requirements and Certificates

I. High School Graduation Requirements

The board will award a high school diploma to every enrolled student who meets the requirements of graduation established by the district. The superintendent/designee will establish graduation requirements which, as a minimum, satisfy those established by the State Board of Education.

Graduation requirements in effect when a student first enrolls in high school will be in effect until that student graduates unless such period is in excess of ten (10) years. After a student enters high school, additional graduation requirements will not be added by the school district; however, the Board maintains the prerogative to remove requirements if permitted by state law. The board will approve additional graduation requirements as recommended by the superintendent.

Requirements for graduation are as follows:

A. Successful Completion of Credit/Course Requirements: Each student must complete at least twenty-two (22) credit requirements in the following subjects:

Subject	Class of 2015 – 2020 Minimum State and District Credit Requirements	Class of 2021 and Beyond
English	4	4
Mathematics (4)	3	3
Science	3 (including 1 lab credit)	3 (including 2 lab credits)
Social Studies (including .5 civics)	3	3
Health and Fitness (5)	2	2
Arts	1	2 (1)
Occupational Education/CTE	1	1
World Languages/Personal Pathway	0	2 (2)
Electives	5	4
Total State and District Credit Requirements	22*	24 (3)

* District credit requirements in excess of those required by the State Board of Education.

(1) One of the two arts credits may be replaced with a personalized pathway requirement.

(2) Two credits in World Language or personalized pathway requirements.

(3) For individual students, 2 credits may be waived based on the student's unusual circumstances.

(4) Includes completion of Algebra and Geometry.

(5) Includes 1.5 credits fitness and .5 credit health.

High school credit will be awarded for successful completion of a specified unit of study. In this district, successful completion of a specified unit of study means: (a) Earning a passing grade according to the district's grading policy; (b) Demonstrating proficiency/mastery of

content standards as determined by the district; and/or (c) Successfully completing an established number of hours of planned instructional activities to be determined by the district. The school district may require a sequence of courses or menu of choices to meet specific subject graduation requirements. The district will publish these course options or sequences on a yearly basis.

B. Pass necessary Washington State Assessments: As a school district within the state of Washington, Spokane Public Schools is required to follow state guidelines regarding graduation requirements. This includes requirements in state testing and/or state approved alternatives necessary to graduate. SPS will follow state guidelines as outlined by the Washington State Board of Education that specify if specific assessments or alternatives are required to be met by students prior to issuing a diploma.

C. Complete a High School and Beyond Plan: The High School and Beyond Plan is a living document that starts during middle school and is revised throughout the following grades. Each student will develop a plan to satisfy the state and district's high school graduation requirement and their first year beyond high school completion. The plan shall guide the student's high school experience and prepare the student for post-secondary education or training that relates to the student's career path. Each student's plan should be reviewed annually to assess progress, adjust the plan, and advise the student on steps necessary for successful completion of the plan. The high school and beyond plan should be developed and modified in collaboration with the student, parent/guardian and district staff.

II. Certificate of Academic or Individual Achievement

A. Certificate of Academic Achievement: A student will receive a certificate of academic achievement (CAA) only if they earn the appropriate number of credits required by the district, complete the high school and beyond plan, and meet the reading, writing, science, and math standards on required high school statewide assessment or an appropriate alternative assessment.

B. Certificate of Individual Achievement: Students qualifying for special education services will earn a certificate of individual achievement (CIA) as determined by their individual education plan. In the event minimum test requirements are adopted by the board, a student who possesses a disability will satisfy those competency requirements which are incorporated into the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated into the IEP will serve as the basis for determining completion of a course.

III. High School Graduation Procedures

The superintendent/designee will develop procedures for implementing this policy according to applicable state law.

Cross References:

Policy 3110	Qualifications of Attendance and Placement
Policy 3241	Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishment
Policy 3520	Student Fees, Fines and Charges
Policy 3412	Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

Legal References

RCW 28A.155.045	Certificate of individual achievement
RCW 28A.230.090	High school graduation requirements or equivalencies — Reevaluation of graduation requirements — Review and authorization of proposed changes — Credit for courses taken before attending high school — Postsecondary credit equivalencies
RCW 28A.230.050	Physical education in high schools
RCW 28A.230.060	Waiver of course of student in Washington's history and government
RCW 28A.230.120	High school diplomas — Issuance — Option to receive final transcripts — Notice
RCW 28A.230.179	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction
RCW 28A.600.300-400	Running start program - Definition
RCW 28A.635.060	Defacing or injuring school property — Liability of pupil, parent or guardian — Withholding grades, diploma, or transcripts — Suspension and restitution — Voluntary work program as alternative — Rights protected
RCW 28A.655.061	High school assessment system – Certificate of academic achievement – Exemptions – Options to retake high school assessment – Objective alternative assessment – Student learning plans
RCW 28A.655.066	Statewide end-of-course assessments for high school mathematics.
RCW 28A.655.068	Statewide high school assessment in science.
RCW 28A.230.125	Development of standardized high school transcripts.
RCW 28A.300.575	Washington state seal of biliteracy.
WAC 180-51	High school graduation requirements
WAC 392-121-182	Alternative Learning Experience Requirements
WAC 392-169	Special service programs - running start program
WAC 392-348	Secondary Education
WAC 392-410	Courses of studies and equivalencies

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Superintendent: Dr. Shelley K. Redinger