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POLICY

It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that beginning with the graduating class of 2008, all students must meet the following requirements regarding GPA, credits, service learning, along with additional State requirements, in order to graduate. These requirements are in addition to those specified in the high school graduation requirements bulletin.

I. Credit Requirements

Students must have a minimum of 20 requirements in order to graduate. The State requires 19 credits; the District requires one additional credit, for the total of 20. The credit requirement breakdown is included in the Graduation Requirements Bulletin. While students are required to have 20 credits to graduate, students are urged to examine their post-high school plans, and to take the appropriate credits that will allow them to achieve their post-graduate goals. Additionally, students are encouraged to gain proficiency in many areas of the curriculum.


Individual schools may wish to require additional credits for graduation; to do so, the school must receive a written waiver from the Director of High Schools and the Chief Academic Officer.

II. Additional Seattle School District Graduation Requirements

A. *Grade Point Average Requirements*

In order to graduate, students will be required to have at least a 2.0 or above cumulative Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) and a 2.0 or above cumulative GPA in all courses in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. For purposes of this Board-adopted graduation requirement only, the GPA will be calculated in a way that treats an "E" grade the same as an "N" grade.

If a student retakes a course, the highest grade received will be counted towards the student's G.P.A., and the student may receive credit towards graduation for only one of the courses. However, a record of all classes taken, including the grades received, will remain on the student's transcript.

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B. *Interventions*

Schools are encouraged to utilize the following interventions to assist those students who are in danger of not meeting the 2.0 G.P.A. requirement:

- Homework centers
- After school tutoring
- Volunteer tutors
- Saturday academics
- 9th grade transition class
- 5th and 15th week progress reports
- Quarterly reports
- Report cards
- Teacher home contact
- Advisory periods
- Mentors
- Summer school

Academic achievement plans at each school site will address “safety net” issues around intervention strategies to help students at risk of not earning a C grade.

C. *Service Learning*


Students are required to participate in service learning activities, which are jointly developed by the District and school sites. Students are required to complete 60 hours of service learning before graduation.

III. Additional State Mandated Graduation Requirements

A. *Certificate of Academic Achievement—Students for Whom the WASL is Appropriate*

Beginning with the class of 2008, the State requires that students must pass each portion of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in order to receive the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA). The CAA is required by the State before a student can receive a high school diploma.

B. *Certificate of Individual Achievement—Students not Appropriately Assessed by the WASL—Exception to the Certificate of Academic Achievement*

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Beginning with the class of 2008, the State requires that all students who are not appropriately assessed by the WASL may earn a Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA). The student's IEP team shall make the determination of whether the student is appropriately served by the WASL, or whether the student should instead work towards the CIA. The CIA may be earned using multiple ways to demonstrate skills and abilities in alignment with the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

C. Culminating Project

Beginning with the Class of 2008, the State requires all students to complete a culminating project in order to receive a high school diploma. The culminating project shall consist of the student demonstrating learning competencies and preparations related to: thinking analytically, logically, and creatively, and integrating experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems; and understanding the importance of work and how performance, effort, and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities.¹ The Seattle Public Schools specific requirements for the Culminating Project are outlined in the Graduation Requirements Bulletin.

D. High School Plus Plan

Beginning with the Class of 2008, the State requires all high school students to create a High School Plus Plan. This plan must indicate what the student intends to do during their high school years, as well as what they expect to do during the year following graduation. The Seattle Public Schools specific requirements for the High School Plus Plan are outlined in the Graduation Requirements Bulletin.

Reference: WAC 180-51; SHB 2195 (2004 Legislative Session)

Cross Reference: Graduation Requirements Bulletin (distributed to students and also available at www.seattleschools.org)

Previously Revised: Dec. 1999; Nov. 2000; April 2001

¹ See WAC 180-51-063 fn. 8, and Washington State Student Learning Goals three and four.