

Frequently Asked Questions About Current Graduation Requirements

- (1) If a student is trying to earn a diploma - meaning they have passed the WASL or an approved alternative for every subject but math and are continuing to take math classes in order to graduate - what level of math do they have to take?**

Classes that are at minimum aligned with 9th and 10th grade GLEs. This would include classes such as Integrated Math I and II, Applied Math II and III, and Pathways math.

- (2) Does the student have to pass these math classes with an above average grade?**

No. The requirement is only that the student “pass” the course, there is no requirement that they pass with an A or B (or even a C). If a student has earned a “D” in a math course they have passed it, though counseling staff should work with the student to determine if they need to take another course to ensure skill development, i.e. if they have earned a “D” in Integrated Math II, they should consider taking Applied Math II rather than moving on to Integrated Math III.

- (3) What about ELL students, do they still have to take the WASL to graduate?**

The State Legislature proposed a bill that would have exempted ELL students who do not pass the Washington Language Proficiency Test from taking the WASL, but that was vetoed by the Governor. At this time, ELL students must meet all requirements that exist for general education students, including passing the WASL or an approved alternative.

- (4) What about transfer students from other states?**

Students who have passing scores on another state’s test NCLB test do not need to take the WASL. They earn a diploma, not a CAA or CIA.

- (5) Now that the Culminating Project is a state requirement, can it be waived by a principal?**

No, although SIT or IEP teams may elect to prescribe a modified project for students with disabilities.

- (6) What about students who are in Running Start? Can a taking English 101 or 102 substitute for completing a Culminating Project?**

No. School can elect to allow students who are in Running Start to submit a paper completed for English 101 and 102 as part of the Culminating Project, but taking these courses do not serve as an outright replacement for completing the project. For example, if a school has a project defense requirement where each student must present a research paper to a panel, the school can allow a Running Start student to submit a paper also submitted for a Running Start class as their research paper, but the student would still need to go in front of the panel.