

# Seattle Public Schools

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### For the Class of 2010

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#### **20 CREDIT MINIMUM**

See breakdown of specific credits on page 2 of this bulletin. The credit requirements are minimums both in terms of total credits required for graduation and for credits in the various subject areas. In order to ensure both work and college readiness, the district encourages students to exceed the requirements. Seattle Public Schools issues a diploma to students who fulfill all requirements.

#### **2.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE (G.P.A.)**

In order to graduate, Seattle Public Schools students must have a 2.0 or above cumulative Grade Point Average (G.P.A.) and a 2.0 or above Core G.P.A. (i.e., for all courses in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science). See School Board Policy C 15.02

#### **EARNING A CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, CERTIFICATE OF INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT, OR A DIPLOMA**

Students who meet all State and District graduation requirements will earn a high school diploma. The State requires that students must pass each portion of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) or an approved alternative in order to receive the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA). Special education students who are unable to take the WASL are eligible to earn a Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) by passing one of the several additional approved assessment alternatives for Special Education Students. Students who have met all other CAA or CIA requirements, but are unable to pass the Math portion of the WASL or any other approved alternative, can still earn a high school diploma by continuing to take and pass math courses. Beginning in spring 2010, students who have not previously passed the WASL must take the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE), a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education. Beginning in spring 2010, students can meet the state's math requirement by passing the high school math HSPE, a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education, or by earning two math credits after 10th grade. Students must have taken the math WASL/HSPE once before using any alternatives. Further information on these options can be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Resources/pubdocs/2008/WASL-HSDiploma.pdf>.

#### **CULMINATING PROJECT**

The State requires all students to complete a culminating project in order to receive a high school diploma. Students will demonstrate essential skills through reading, writing, speaking, production and/or performance. Students may be asked to write a research paper, work with a mentor in a school or in the community, present to a community or peer panel, pull together a portfolio of work and/or develop a multi-media presentation. Contact the individual school for specific information.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL PLUS PLAN**

The State requires all high school students to create a High School Plus Plan. Seattle Public Schools expects students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade to develop a 5-year plan including the 4 years of high school and the following year. School counselors will help students develop their individual plans. More information can be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/Requirement-HighSchoolBeyond.aspx>.

#### **SERVICE LEARNING**

Seattle Public Schools requires students to complete 60 hours of service learning before graduation. Service learning is a method of teaching through which students apply their academic skills and knowledge to address selected real-life needs in their communities. Contact individual schools for specific information.

#### **POLICY**

The Seattle Public Schools provides Equal Education Opportunity without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, handicap/disability or sexual orientation. The District complies with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations to include but not limited to Title IX, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, RCW49.60 "The Law Against Discrimination, and RCW28A.640 Sex Equality, and covers, but not limited to, all District programs, courses, activities (including extra-curricular activities, services, access to facilities, etc. The Title IX Officer and 504 Coordinator with overall responsibility for monitoring and ensuring compliance is: Office of Equity and Compliance, 2445 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S., Seattle, WA 98124-1165.

**SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT	CREDITS <sup>1</sup>	REQUIRED COURSES	NOTES
English/ Language Arts	3.0	Language Arts 9A, 9B, 10A, 10B, 11A	English/Language Arts includes but is not limited to reading, creative writing, literature, speech and drama.
Social Studies	3.0	World History 1, 2, 3  U.S. History 11A, 11B  American Government & Economics 12  Washington State History & Government	“[O]ne credit shall be required in United States history and government which shall include study of the Constitution of the United States ... one-half credit shall be required in Washington state history and government which shall include study of the Constitution of the state of Washington <sup>2</sup> ... one credit shall be required in contemporary world history, geography, and problems. Courses in economics, sociology, civics, political science, international relations, or related courses with emphasis on current problems may be accepted as equivalencies.” WAC 180-51-075. Students must also complete a classroom-based assessment in civics in the eleventh or twelfth grade
Mathematics	2.0 <sup>3</sup>	Select from approved course offerings <sup>4</sup>	Eligible courses must be aligned with at least ninth and tenth grade level expectations.
Science	2.0	Select from approved course offerings	“At least one credit of the two science credits shall be in a laboratory science” WAC 180-51-060
Occupational Education	1.5	Select from approved course offerings	Occupational Education credits may be earned in Exploratory or Preparatory CTE classes and certain approved non-CTE courses. See your counselor details.
PE/Health and Fitness	2.0	Select from approved course offerings	There is a dual combination of cognitive content knowledge and performance to physical education. The performance component of physical education may be waived for specific reasons such as physical disability or participation in directed athletics, but the requirement that students obtain cognitive content knowledge related to physical education cannot be waived. The content knowledge requirement must be met by either course work in fitness education or the earning of credit through taking equivalency courses or completing competency testing. RCW 28A.230.050; WAC 180-50-135; WAC 392-410-136; WAC 392-410-310; and WAC 392-410-340. Students must also complete a classroom-based assessment in health and fitness during high school.
Fine Arts	1.0	Art, Music or Drama	Select from courses in fine, visual or performing arts.
Electives	5.5	World language and/or elective courses from other subject areas	
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	20.0		Transcript provides record of courses completed, credits, and grades.

- One credit equals 150 hours of planned instructional activities or the completion of an approved Alternative Course of Study. (WAC 180-51-050). Approved course offerings are listed in the Seattle Public Schools Catalog of Secondary School Subjects.
- Students who have completed and passed a state history and government course in another state may have the Washington state history and government requirement waived. The study of the United States and Washington state Constitutions required under RCW 28A.230.170 shall not be waived, but may be fulfilled through an alternative learning experience. Additionally, eleventh and twelfth grade students who transfer from another state, and who have or will have earned two credits in social studies at graduation, may have the Washington state history requirement waived.
- Starting with the Class of 2013**, students will be required to earn three math credits, in the following progressive sequence: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II.
- Credits obtained in certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses have been recognized as meeting subject matter graduation requirements. Please consult with your counselor.

**CAUTION:** Entrance requirements to four-year colleges and universities exceed high school graduation requirements. Additional course work is required in most areas of study as well as an SAT or ACT score and grade point average. Check the college catalog and with the high school counselor for more information. There is an open-door admission policy to the two-year community colleges and public technical colleges in this state, though some programs of study may have specific requirements.

### RUNNING START

- Eligible Juniors and Seniors may attend classes at certain institutions of higher learning, including community and public technical colleges, tuition-free, and earn high school and college credit simultaneously. An official transcript must be

received from the college before credit can be recognized, so twelfth grade students should be aware that if they are relying on Running Start credit to meet graduation requirements, they will not be eligible to participate in commencement unless the college provides an official transcript prior to the commencement ceremony.

2. Students' accumulated credits are to be reviewed at the conclusion of each semester of schooling (including summer semester) to determine eligibility for Running Start. Students shall then be re-assigned to grade levels in accordance with the following schedule:

GRADE	SEPTEMBER 21	FEBRUARY 21	JUNE
10 <sup>th</sup> grade status	5 credits	7.5 credits	n/a
11 <sup>th</sup> grade status	10 credits	12.5 credits	n/a
12 <sup>th</sup> grade status	15 credits	17.5 credits	20 credits

⇒ Note: Juniors who are ready to graduate in June shall be assigned Senior status prior to graduation.

### **HOME-BASED STUDENTS**

1. Home-schooled students transferring into the high school program must have on file with a "Declaration of Intent to Provide Home-Based Instruction" form prior to the transfer. The school district has the authority to determine the appropriate grade and course level placement, and the issuance of credit, if any, in compliance with WAC 392-410-340.
2. Students who are home-schooled can access Running Start classes through their local public high school, if they have obtained junior or senior standing, and there is capacity at the student's grade level at the school.

### **EDUCATION CENTERS**

1. A student wishing to attend an education center must enroll through the Support Prevention, and Intervention (SPI) Placement Center, located at the John Stanford Center, 2445 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South. SPI staff will enroll the student, assess the student's educational needs and assign the student to an education centers
2. Education Center students may attend the centers for one academic year, and earn up to eight (8) credits in that time.

### **SEATTLE TECH-PREP PROGRAM**

Seattle Tech-Prep Program enables a high school student to remain in high school and apply credits earned in this program towards an associate degree or certificate at one of the three Seattle Community Colleges and/or approved statewide post-secondary articulations.

### **CREDIT FOR CORRESPONDENCE OR COLLEGE COURSES**

(WAC 392-410-310 and School Board Policy C16.00)

Seattle Public Schools will only grant credit, including high school graduation credit, for correspondence or non-Running Start college courses obtained from: (1) schools that are members of the National University Continuing Education Association or accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council; (2) community colleges, technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities (either public or private), and approved private high schools in Washington state; and (3) other schools or institutions, including electronically mediated schools or programs, which are approved, after evaluation of a particular course offering, by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. When high school credit is awarded for such courses, it must be based on adherence to the following guidelines:

1. The courses must be taken while the student is enrolled in the Seattle Public Schools.
2. Written approval of the principal of the high school must be given before the course is undertaken.
3. The approval statement must include a statement of the subject in which credit is to be given and a statement of the number of credits to be earned.
4. The principal or designee shall award credit only after an official transcript has been received.

### **CREDIT FOR ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF STUDY**

(WAC 392-121-107 and School Board Policy C04.00)

Students can earn credit for alternative courses of study, which include Alternative Learning Experiences (ALEs), Running Start, National Guard service, supervised and approved learning experiences away from the high school, work-based learning, other courses offered by a school or institution if specifically approved for credit by the district; and learning experiences conducted by persons not offered by a school or institution if specifically approved for credit by the district; and learning experiences conducted by persons not employed by the school district. Credit is rarely given for participation in educational programs provided by persons or organizations outside the school district. Procedures for granting of credit for all alternative courses of study include:

1. Approval to participate for credit must be received prior to the experience. A proposal for approval must include the following information:
  - a. Name of program, course title and number from the Catalog of Secondary School Subjects to which the learning experience is clearly related and for which credit will be awarded.
  - b. Length of time for which approval is desired.
  - c. Objectives of program, content outline, and/or major learning activities and instructional materials to be used if the alternative learning experience is not part of an accredited college course.

- d. Number of credits to be earned.
2. Further requirements, including a Student Learning Plan, are necessary for ALEs. See School Board Policy C04.00.
3. The principal, in consultation with a counselor and the appropriate department head when necessary, must approve the proposed program in writing prior to the start of the experience or activity for which credit is requested.
4. Credit is only awarded after provision of an official transcript to the principal or principal's designee. If an official transcript is not generated by the alternative course of study itself, a statement by which the student's achievement will be evaluated and awarding of credit determined must be considered for consideration.
5. Approval will not be granted for participation in programs which exclude participants on the basis of sex, race or ethnic group, religion, or handicap.

#### **WAIVER OF DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Four years of attendance (grades 9-12) are usually necessary for graduation. Principals may waive district graduation requirements for individual students when compelling educational and /or hardship reasons are documented.
2. While specific District high school graduation requirements may be waived for an individual student; **HOWEVER, NO STATE REQUIREMENT MAY BE WAIVED** (i.e., state minimum credit requirements, Culminating Project and High School Plus Plan cannot be waived) except as where provided for under state law (i.e., waiver of PE/Fitness credit on account of physical disability, employment or religious belief, or because of participation in directed athletics or military science and tactics or for other good cause).
3. The following procedures will be utilized for waivers of district graduation requirements:
  - ⇒ The student desiring a waiver will bring to the counselor a letter of petition signed by the parent or guardian. When the student has reached 18, the student rather than the parent or guardian may sign the letter.
  - ⇒ The counselor will inform the principal of the request for a waiver.
  - ⇒ The counselor will consult with and ask for a written recommendation from the appropriate department head(s) and make a recommendation, including rationale and evidence that minimum performance levels in the areas of basic communication and computation skills have been achieved.
  - ⇒ The principal will either grant or disallow the waiver and provide rationale for the decision regarding the request and will communicate that decision to the student and Instructional Director.
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**Further information on all of these subjects can be found in the District's *K-12 Counseling Manual*, which is regularly updated to reflect changes in law, regulations, and policy, and which contains the forms mentioned in this Bulletin.**