



School Board Briefing/Proposed Action Report

Informational (no action required by Board) **Action Report** (Board will be required to take action)

DATE: November 4, 2016
FROM: Dr. Larry Nyland, Superintendent
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I. TITLE

Amending Policy No. 2415, High School Graduation Requirements

For Introduction: December 7, 2016
For Action: January 4, 2017

II. WHY BOARD ACTION IS NECESSARY

The School Board is the governing body with the authority to adopt, amend, and repeal policies for the District. Board action is therefore required.

III. FISCAL IMPACT/REVENUE SOURCE

The revenue source for this motion is N/A.

This motion has no immediate fiscal impact as it does not affect the structure of credit offerings. However, discussion of the structure of credit offerings in 2017 may lead to future amendments to this and other policies, which may result in fiscal impact.

Expenditure: One-time Annual Other Source

IV. POLICY IMPLICATION

If approved, this motion would amend Policy No. 2415, High School Graduation Requirements, as reflected in the attached policy revision.

V. RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move that the Board amend Policy 2415, High School Graduation Requirements, as reflected in the attached policy revision.

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

This motion was discussed at the Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee meeting on November 14, 2016. The Committee reviewed the motion and moved the item forward to the full Board with a recommendation for approval.

VII. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to WAC 180-51-068 and following the Washington State Board of Education's (SBE) approval of our two-year waiver of implementation, District students in the class of 2021 are required by Washington State to earn 24 credits to graduate, but current Policy No. 2415 only requires 21 credits to graduate. Students in the class of 2021 will be registering for high school classes starting in February of 2017 and entering high school as ninth graders in fall of 2017. The motion to amend Policy No. 2415 to meet minimum state requirements is being brought forward at this time to communicate to students and families the expectations for high school graduation prior to their enrollment.

As discussed at the September 28 Board Work Session and the October 10 Curriculum & Instruction Policy Committee meeting, the proposed amendment to Policy No. 2415 in this motion simply changes the minimum number of credits required for graduation from 21 to 24, to meet requirements of state regulations (WAC 180-51-068). More substantial amendments to Policy No. 2415 are not included in this motion but may be brought in a future motion as a result of stakeholder and community engagement in 2017.

VIII. STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Whether or not to amend Policy No. 2415, High School Graduation Requirements.

IX. ALTERNATIVES

Do not amend Policy No. 2415. This is not recommended because the current requirement of 21 credits for graduation will be insufficient to meet the minimum number of credits required by the state for graduation, per WAC 180-51-068.

Delay amendment of Policy No. 2415 until spring of 2017, when other potential amendments to the policy may be proposed. This is not recommended because students will be registering for high school enrollment prior to spring of 2017. Additionally, this is not recommended because amending to change the number of credits required for graduation is not dependent on any other potential amendments to Policy No. 2415, therefore there is no need to delay the current motion. Furthermore, it is not known whether a motion for additional amendments will be proposed after stakeholder and community engagement.

X. RESEARCH AND DATA SOURCES / BENCHMARKS

Research and data sources are provided by the Washington SBE:
<http://www.sbe.wa.gov/graduation.php>

In 2006, the Washington State Legislature directed the SBE to revise the definition of the purpose and expectations of a public high school diploma. In 2010, after extensive committee work, stakeholder input, and research, the SBE adopted by resolution (but did not implement) 24 credit Career- and College-Ready Graduation Requirements.

The Board passed a resolution on January 9, 2014, that modified the 24 credit graduation framework to increase flexibility and personalization while maintaining rigor. Then in the 2014 session, the Legislature passed E2SSB 6552 that directed the Board to implement through rule (WAC 180-51-068) the 24-credit graduation requirements for the Class of 2019 and beyond, and also reallocated funding to more directly support the new requirements.

In the 2014 session, the Legislature passed E2SSB 6552 that directed the SBE to adopt rules to implement the Career- and College-Ready Graduation Requirements adopted in the board resolution of November 10, 2010, and revised on January 9, 2014, with some modifications. The Board adopted rules to E2SSB 6552 on July 10, 2014. The requirements for the Class of 2019 are described in WAC 180-51-068.


Seattle Public Schools requested and received a two-year waiver of implementation, which maintains the current graduation requirements for the classes of 2019 and 2020. The graduation requirements set forth in WAC 180-51-068 go into effect for the class of 2021.

XI. TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Upon approval of this motion, Policy No. 2415, High School Graduation Requirements, will be amended and the new version of the policy will be posted online.

XII. ATTACHMENTS

- Policy No. 2415 - clean (for approval)
- Policy No. 2415 - redline (for reference)

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It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that in addition to meeting all graduation requirements set forth by the State of Washington, all District high school students meet the following requirements in order to graduate:


1. Students in the class of 2020 or earlier must have a minimum of 21 credits in order to graduate; students in the class of 2021 or beyond must have a minimum of 24 credits in order 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 postgraduate goals. Additionally, students are encouraged to gain proficiency in many areas of the curriculum.

Individual schools may require additional credits for graduation; to do so, the school must receive a written waiver from their Executive Director of Schools, the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and the Superintendent.
2. The Board recognizes the importance and is supportive of community service by requiring students 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.
3. In order to graduate, students will be required to have at least a 2.0 or above cumulative GPA and a 2.0 cumulative GPA or above 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.

Students Completing the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program

Beginning in Fall 2011, students who fulfill the requirements of an international baccalaureate (IB) program are considered to have met state high school graduation standards, so long as:

1. The student meets the requirements for the certificate of academic achievement or the certificate of individual achievement;
2. The student meets the provision regarding study of the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Washington; and
3. The student meets all graduation requirements required by Seattle Public Schools or by the student’s school that are in addition to state minimum requirements, unless those requirements are waived by the student’s principal or designee.

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Fulfilling the requirements of an international baccalaureate program means the student has:

1. Completed and passed all required IB courses as scored by the school;
2. Passed all internal assessments as scored by the school;
3. Successfully completed all required projects and products as scored by the school; and
4. Completed the final examinations administered by the international baccalaureate organization in each of the required subjects under the IB diploma program.

A student and his/her parent or guardian will be required to sign the “International Baccalaureate Option Form” indicating that the student and family understand that the waiver from state minimum graduation requirements only applies for students who fulfill the requirements of the IB program; should a student fail to meet the requirements, or if a student leaves the program prior to completion, he or she may be required to fulfill state and Seattle Public Schools minimum graduation requirements.

Graduation and Participation in Commencement

1. Students must be enrolled and attending a school for the semester immediately preceding graduation to be eligible to graduate from that school. Students who are participating in Running Start or who have properly obtained dual-enrollment in another school district or approved program may graduate from their affiliated District high school.
2. A student must have met all state graduation requirements or fulfilled the requirements of the International Baccalaureate program, and have met or waived all District graduation requirements, in order to participate in commencement, unless the student has a right to participate in commencement as a matter of state or federal law.

The Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee(s) shall annually create, post, and distribute a *Graduation Requirements Bulletin* for each graduating class detailing all graduation requirements, including requirements set forth by the State of Washington, a breakdown of the areas in which students must earn credit, and a process by which district requirements may be waived. The *Graduation Requirements Bulletin* and the *K-12 Counseling Manual* serve as the administrative procedures to further implement this Policy.



HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS

Policy No. 2415

January 4, 2017

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Adopted: February 2012

Revised: January 2017; June 2014; August 2013

Cross Reference: 2420; K-12 Counseling Services Manual, Graduation Requirements Bulletin

Related Superintendent Procedure: N/A

Previous Policies: C15.00, G10.00

Legal Reference: RCW 28A.155.045 Certificate of individual achievement; RCW 28A.230 Compulsory Coursework and Activities; 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.230.120 High school diplomas — Issuance — Option to receive final transcripts — Notice; RCW 28A.230.170 Study of constitutions compulsory - Rules; 28A.320 Provisions applicable to all districts; ; RCW 28A.600.300-400 Running start program; 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 requirements — Exemptions — Options to retake high school assessment — Objective alternative assessment — Student learning plans;; 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; ESHB 1412
Management Resource: *Policy News*, June 2013, June 2012