

INSTRUCTION

High School Graduation Requirements

A total of twenty-one (21) credits in grades 9 through 12 shall be required for graduation from high school through the graduating class of 2020; twenty-four (24) credits shall be required for graduation beginning with the graduating class of 2021. High school credit will be awarded for successful completion of a specified unit of study. For 1.0 credit, a student must successfully complete courses taught to the State's essential learning requirements (learning standards) or a student must demonstrate proficiency/mastery of learning standards as determined by the District. All students must meet this minimum requirement (including specific required courses) to participate in the commencement exercises.

A high school student, currently enrolled in Kennewick School District, may challenge particular courses for credit toward graduation by demonstrating proficiency through an assessment on a set of specific standards of the District approved course being challenged.

Each student who has met all District graduation requirements shall be awarded a diploma. The Board of Directors shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in the District who meets the requirements of graduation established by the District. Only one diploma will be awarded with no distinctions being made between the various programs of instruction which have been pursued.

The requirements for graduation shall be the completion of work and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9-12. The minimum subject areas and credits therein shall be as follows:

Courses Required for Graduation

| <u>Course Title</u> | <u>Credits Required</u> | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Through Class of 2020 | Beginning Class of 2021 |
| English | 4.0 Credits | 4.0 Credits |
| Mathematics | 3.0 Credits | 3.0 Credits |
| Social Studies | 3.0 Credits | 3.0 Credits |
| Science | 2.0 Credits (1 Lab) | 3.0 Credits (2 Labs) |
| Occupational Education | 1.0 Credits | |
| Career & Technical Education | | 1.0 Credits |
| Health and Fitness | 2.0 Credits | 2.0 Credits |
| Arts | 1.0 Credits | 2.0 Credits* |
| World Language | — | 2.0 Credits** |
| Electives | <u>5.0 Credits</u> | <u>4.0 Credits</u> |
| | 21.0 Credits | 24.0 Credits |

*One Credit Can Be Personalized Pathway Requirement

**Both Credits Can Be Personalized Pathway Requirement

Personalized Pathway Requirements are related courses that lead to a specific post high school career or educational outcome chosen by the student based on the student's interests and High School and Beyond Plan.

Additional Non-Credit Graduation Requirements

All students are required to complete a High School and Beyond Plan and demonstrate computer competence. Students must also successfully pass State tests or approved alternatives to those tests. Procedures shall be developed for implementing this policy which include:

1. Making graduation requirements available in writing to students, parents and members of the public.
2. Providing for a waiver of graduation requirements for an individual student when permitted.
3. Granting credit for Alternative Learning Experiences, online courses and equivalency courses of study.
4. Granting credit for correspondence and/or college courses including Running Start and College in the High School.
5. Granting credit for work site learning.
6. Implementation of graduation requirements including: the High School and Beyond Plan; the Computer Competency Assessment, and; required State assessments and approved alternatives.
7. Granting credit for high school course(s) completed before a student attended high school, if the academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth grade classes.
8. Determining which courses satisfy particular subject area requirements and whether a particular course may satisfy more than one subject area requirement.
9. Granting credit for planned instructional activities for credit meeting minimum time requirements or based upon demonstration of proficiency/mastery of content standards.
10. Challenging courses for credit based upon the student demonstrating proficiency through an assessment of a set of specific standards equivalent to course competencies.
11. Granting credit for learning experiences conducted away from school, including National Guard high school career training.
12. The valedictorian and salutatorian selection process.
13. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies.

Counseling services shall be provided to students and parents upon entering high school and throughout their high school education experience. Information regarding expectations for high school completion and post-high school opportunities shall be provided. Students shall complete a High School and Beyond Plan when they enter high school and shall update their plan annually. Parent review and approval shall be required.

No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure, but he/she may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies when personal conduct so warrants. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. Any

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student who willfully creates a disturbance at graduation will have their diploma held until appropriate disciplinary consequences are fulfilled.

A student shall be advised that he/she may receive a final transcript if requested prior to July 1 following graduation. However, a student's diploma or transcript may be withheld until the student pays for any school property that has been lost or willfully damaged. Upon payment for damages, or the equivalency through voluntary work, the diploma or transcript will be released. The student and his/her parents shall be notified regarding the nature of the violation or damage, how restitution may be made, and how an appeal may be instituted.

Graduation requirements in effect when a student first enrolls in high school shall be in effect until that student graduates unless such period is in excess of ten years.

Waiver: When the School District deems it to be in the best interest of an individual student, specific requirements may be waived provided they are not required by State statutes. (RCW 28A.230, WAC 180-51)

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| Legal Reference: | RCW 28A.230 | Compulsory Course Work and Activities |
| | 28A.635.030 | Disturbing School, School Activities, or Meetings |
| | 28A.635.060 | Defacing or Injuring School Property -- |
| | WAC 392-410 | Courses of Study and Equivalencies |
| | 180-51 | High School Graduation Requirements |
| | 392-348 | Secondary Education |
| | 392-415 | Secondary Education -- Standardized High School Transcript |
| | 392-169 | Running Start |
| | 392-121-124 | Full-time Equivalent Enrollment for Work Based Learning |

Adopted: September 8, 1993
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