

Seattle Public Schools
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
For the Class of 2016

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To graduate and earn a diploma, the following five criteria must be met:

1. 21 CREDITS MINIMUM

See breakdown of specific credits on page two 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. Some high schools in Seattle Public Schools require more than 21 credits for graduation. Contact your school counselor for the specific credit requirements at your high school.

2. 2.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE (G.P.A.)

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 2415.

3. STATE TESTS – Certificate of Academic/Individual Achievement

In the class of 2016, students are required to pass state tests in reading, writing, math and science. State-approved alternatives are available for students that were not successful on their first attempt. Additional alternatives or modified assessments for students receiving special education services are available. Once students have passed all required tests they earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA). Students passing a special education alternative assessment will earn a Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA). CAA/CIA is only designated on the transcript. The diploma earned is the same for all students.

4. HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

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

5. SERVICE LEARNING

Seattle Public Schools requires students to complete 60 hours of service learning before graduation. Through service learning students apply their academic skills and knowledge in real-life settings. Contact individual schools for specific information.

SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MINIMUM HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

SUBJECT	CREDITS ¹	REQUIRED COURSES	NOTES
English/ Language Arts	4.0	Introduction to Literature & Composition 9A, 9B World Literature & Composition 10A, 10B American Literature & Composition 11A, 11B Comparative Literature & Composition 12A, 12 B	For 11 th grade courses students can substitute AP English Language and Composition 1 & 2 or IB Language and Literature 11A & 11B or IB Language and Literature 12 A/B HL or IB Literature 12 A/B HL. For 12 th grade courses students can substitute AP Literature and Composition, IB English 12A, 12B. Students who pass the state assessment on the Common Core Standards in ELA for grade 11 can select from the above list or from a list of LA electives offered at the school.
Social Studies	3.0	World History 1, 2, 3 U.S. History 11A, 11B American Government Washington State History ²	Students must also complete an OSPI developed classroom-based assessment in civics in the eleventh or twelfth grade. The World History 2 and 3 courses will satisfy the state requirements for 1 credit in Current World Problems (CWP). The American Government course will satisfy the state requirement for a .5 credit in Civics.
Mathematics	3.0	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II* or more advanced course in the sequence.	*Students may elect to take an approved third mathematics credit tailored to their career path, in order to meet the Algebra II graduation requirement, but must obtain parent/guardian and high school approval. See Third Year Mathematics link for more information.
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 for details.
Health and Fitness (Health and Physical Education)	2.0	Select from approved course offerings 1.5 Fitness (Physical Education) .5 Health	The performance component of Fitness (physical education) may be waived for specific reasons such as physical disability or other reason described in RCW 28A.230.050. However, the content knowledge requirement must be met by either course work in fitness education or completing the OSPI developed Concepts of Health and Fitness Assessment. 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 an OSPI approved assessment in health during high school.
Fine Arts	1.0	Art, Music or Drama	Select from courses in fine, visual or performing arts or cross credited CTE courses. See your counselor for details.
Electives	4.5	World language and/or elective courses from other subject areas	2-3 years of world language are required for entrance into four-year college.
TOTAL CREDITS	21.0		Official WA State transcripts provide a record of courses completed, credits, and grades.

1. 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.
2. 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 approved by the school principal. Additionally, eleventh and twelfth grade students who transfer from out of state, and who have or will have earned two credits in social studies at graduation, may have the Washington state history requirement waived by the principal if they would not be able to graduate with their class without such a waiver.

CAUTION: Entrance requirements to four-year colleges and universities exceed Seattle Public Schools 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 ask your 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. However, it is clear that students who continue to enroll in a challenging course of study in high school are more likely to find success in whatever post-secondary option they choose.

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; **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., full IB Diploma graduates, waiver of Fitness (Physical Education) 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 Regional Executive Director.

For further information please contact your school counselor or refer to the District's *K-12 Counseling Manual*, which is updated to reflect changes in law, regulations, and policy.

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 3rd Avenue S., Seattle, WA 98124-1165.