
HOUSE BILL 2486

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Hunter, Jarrett, Anderson, Talcott, Rodne, Morrell, Tom and Miloscia

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1 AN ACT Relating to high school graduation requirements; amending
2 RCW 28A.230.090; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds compelling evidence
5 that academic standards for high school graduation must be increased.
6 Research is clear that success in postsecondary education is directly
7 related to the rigor of courses taken in high school. Research is also
8 clear that all students, whether or not college-bound, can and do
9 benefit from increased standards and expectations in high school. One
10 national consortium of more than one thousand high schools builds its
11 school improvement effort around a curriculum that requires sustained
12 commitment throughout high school to the core subjects of English and
13 mathematics and also requires students to choose a concentration for
14 depth and exploration.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2005 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
18 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students.

1 (a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, minimum high
2 school graduation requirements shall include the equivalent of:

3 (i) Four credits of mathematics including algebra II or its
4 equivalent;

5 (ii) Four credits of English including reading, writing, and
6 communications; and

7 (iii) Four credits in either an academic or a career and technical
8 concentration.

9 (b) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
10 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
11 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
12 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

13 ~~((b))~~ (c) The certificate of academic achievement requirements
14 under RCW 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement
15 requirements under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a
16 public high school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

17 ~~((c))~~ (d) Any decision on whether a student has met the state
18 board's high school graduation requirements for a high school and
19 beyond plan shall remain at the local level.

20 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
21 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
22 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
23 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
24 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

25 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
26 than English established by the state board of education or a local
27 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
28 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
29 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
30 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
31 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

32 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
33 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
34 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
35 high school graduation requirements if:

36 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
37 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth

1 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
2 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
3 students enrolled in the class; or

4 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
5 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high
6 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course
7 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school
8 district board of directors.

9 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
10 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
11 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
12 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

13 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
14 semester hours equals one high school credit.

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