

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1524

C 203 L 11
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Recognizing the international baccalaureate diploma.

Sponsors: House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representative Orwall).

House Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education

Background:

Graduation Requirements. The State Board of Education establishes minimum statewide graduation requirements. Students must earn 19 credits in specified course areas, complete a culminating project, and prepare a high school and beyond plan. Beginning with the graduating class of 2012, 20 credits will be required.

In addition, students must meet the standard on the state reading and writing assessments and take additional math classes if they do not meet the standard on the state mathematics assessment. Beginning with the graduating class of 2013, students must meet the standard on the state assessments in reading, writing, mathematics, and science for graduation. In addition, all students must study the United States and Washington Constitutions as a prerequisite to graduation.

School districts may establish other local graduation requirements. High school diplomas are issued by school districts to students who meet state and local graduation requirements.

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB). The IB is designed as an academically challenging series of courses, student work, and examinations which are usually offered over a two-year period. Students must complete courses in six subjects: primary language, secondary language, individuals and societies, science, mathematics, and either the arts or a second course in one of the other subjects. Students must also complete a Theory of Knowledge course, produce an extended essay, participate in a Creativity, Action, and Service activity, and complete internally and externally-scored assessment tasks.

To earn an IB Diploma, students must also pass end-of-course examinations in each of their six courses. The IB examinations are offered twice a year. The results of the November examinations are issued in January; the results of the May examinations are issued in July.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

There are 16 Washington high schools approved to offer the IB. More than 6,600 Washington students enrolled in the IB courses in 2009-10. However, not all students seek the full IB Diploma. Some enroll in the IB but do not complete all of the required components or examinations. According to the IB Organization, 339 Washington students earned the IB Diploma in 2008.

Summary:

Students who fulfill specified requirements toward completion of an IB Diploma are considered to have satisfied state minimum requirements for graduation from a public high school, except that:

1. the requirement for students to meet the standard on state assessments still applies to the IB students; and
2. laws requiring students to study the United States and Washington Constitutions as a prerequisite for graduation still apply to the IB students, but the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction may adopt a rule allowing the IB students to meet the prerequisite through non-credit based study.

School districts may require the IB students to complete additional local graduation requirements before issuing a high school diploma, but are encouraged to waive local requirements for students to pursue an IB Diploma.

To receive a high school diploma under the act, students must complete the following aspects of the IB:

- complete and pass all required IB courses, as scored at the local level;
- submit and pass all internal assessments, as scored at the local level;
- successfully complete all required projects and products, as scored at the local level;
- and
- complete the final examinations administered by the IB Organization in all required subjects.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	82	16
Senate	46	2

Effective: July 22, 2011