
HOUSE BILL 2402

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Overstreet, Shea, Taylor, Reykdal, and Van De Wege

Read first time 01/16/14. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to removing the culminating project as a state
2 graduation requirement; and amending RCW 28A.230.090, 28A.230.097, and
3 28A.320.240.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2011 c 203 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
8 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
9 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and except those equivalencies established
10 by local high schools or school districts under RCW 28A.230.097. The
11 purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready
12 for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and
13 citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.

14 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
15 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
16 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
17 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

18 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW

1 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
2 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
3 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

4 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
5 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
6 shall remain at the local level. Effective with the graduating class
7 of 2015, the state board of education may not establish a requirement
8 for students to complete a culminating project for graduation.

9 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board
10 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
11 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
12 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
13 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

14 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements
15 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and
16 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to
17 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.
18 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in
19 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of
20 academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's
21 certificate or credential, and complete other state and local
22 graduation requirements.

23 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high
24 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the
25 legislature for review and to the quality education council established
26 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to
27 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted
28 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a
29 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis
30 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
31 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the
32 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted
33 legislation.

34 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
35 than English established by the state board of education or a local
36 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
37 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or

1 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
2 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
3 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

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

8 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
9 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
10 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
11 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
12 students enrolled in the class; or

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

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

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

24 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.097 and 2013 c 241 s 2 are each amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall
27 adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school courses
28 offered to students in high schools and skill centers. A career and
29 technical course equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each
30 school district board of directors shall develop a course equivalency
31 approval procedure. Boards of directors must approve AP computer
32 science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science,
33 and must denote on a student's transcript that AP computer science
34 qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who take the
35 course in their senior year. In order for a board to approve AP
36 computer science as equivalent to high school mathematics, the student

1 must be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed algebra
2 II.

3 (2) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to
4 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school
5 district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including
6 graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's
7 transcript using the equivalent academic high school department
8 designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as
9 appropriate. The high school or school district shall also issue and
10 keep record of course completion certificates that demonstrate that the
11 career and technical courses were successfully completed as needed for
12 industry certification, college credit, or preapprenticeship, as
13 applicable. The certificate shall be ((either)) part of the student's
14 high school and beyond plan ((or the student's culminating project, as
15 determined by the student)). The office of the superintendent of
16 public instruction shall develop and make available electronic samples
17 of certificates of course completion.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.320.240 and 2006 c 263 s 914 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The purpose of this section is to identify quality criteria for
21 school library media programs that support the student learning goals
22 under RCW 28A.150.210, the essential academic learning requirements
23 under RCW 28A.655.070, and high school graduation requirements adopted
24 under RCW 28A.230.090.

25 (2) Every board of directors shall provide for the operation and
26 stocking of such libraries as the board deems necessary for the proper
27 education of the district's students or as otherwise required by law or
28 rule of the superintendent of public instruction.

29 (3) "Teacher-librarian" means a certified teacher with a library
30 media endorsement under rules adopted by the professional educator
31 standards board.

32 (4) "School-library media program" means a school-based program
33 that is staffed by a certificated teacher-librarian and provides a
34 variety of resources that support student mastery of the essential
35 academic learning requirements in all subject areas and the
36 implementation of the district's school improvement plan.

1 (5) The teacher-librarian, through the school-library media
2 program, shall collaborate as an instructional partner to help all
3 students meet the content goals in all subject areas, and assist high
4 school students completing (~~the culminating project and~~) high school
5 and beyond plans required for graduation.

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