

EHB 2965 - S AMD 1375  
By Senator Wellman

ADOPTED 03/12/2020

1 On page 3, after line 16, insert the following:

2 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1)(a) Recognizing that schools and  
3 districts throughout Washington have different needs and resources to  
4 respond to the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak,  
5 within existing resources, the state board of education may  
6 administer an emergency waiver program to grant local education  
7 agencies and private schools flexibility so that students in the  
8 graduating class of 2020 or earlier who were on track to graduate  
9 before the gubernatorial declaration of emergency of February 29,  
10 2020, and any subsequent amendments to that proclamation, are not  
11 negatively impacted by measures taken by the local education agency  
12 or private school in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

13 (b) Consistent with the intent of the emergency waiver program,  
14 the state board of education may adopt rules to allow:

15 (i) School districts, charter schools established under chapter  
16 28A.710 RCW, and tribal compact schools operated according to the  
17 terms of state-tribal education compacts authorized under chapter  
18 28A.715 RCW to apply to the state board of education for a waiver of  
19 high school graduation requirements or equivalencies established  
20 under RCW 28A.230.090 for students in the graduating class of 2020 or  
21 earlier who cannot meet the statewide minimum credit and subject area  
22 graduation requirements due to school closures related to the novel  
23 coronavirus (COVID-19). The state board of education may approve  
24 waivers that meet criteria including demonstration of a good faith  
25 effort to address core course requirements and credit deficiencies  
26 through other mechanisms; and

27 (ii) The state board of education to waive provisions relating to  
28 the number of instructional hours, the number of school days, credit-  
29 based graduation requirements, and other provisions for the 2019-20  
30 school year for private schools established under chapter 28A.195 RCW  
31 that close due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

32 (2) This section expires July 31, 2020.

1       **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2019 c 252 s 103 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) The state board of education shall establish high school  
4 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as  
5 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and 28A.655.250 and except those  
6 equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts  
7 under RCW 28A.230.097. The purpose of a high school diploma is to  
8 declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary  
9 education, gainful employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with  
10 the skills to be a lifelong learner.

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

15       (b) Except as provided otherwise in this subsection, the  
16 certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
17 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements  
18 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high  
19 school but are not the only requirements for graduation. The  
20 requirement to earn a certificate of academic achievement to qualify  
21 for graduation from a public high school concludes with the  
22 graduating class of 2019. The obligation of qualifying students to  
23 earn a certificate of individual achievement as a prerequisite for  
24 graduation from a public high school concludes with the graduating  
25 class of 2021.

26       (c)(i) Each student must have a high school and beyond plan to  
27 guide the student's high school experience and inform course taking  
28 that is aligned with the student's goals for education or training  
29 and career after high school.

30       (ii)(A) A high school and beyond plan must be initiated for each  
31 student during the seventh or eighth grade. In preparation for  
32 initiating that plan, each student must first be administered a  
33 career interest and skills inventory.

34       (B) For students with an individualized education program, the  
35 high school and beyond plan must be developed in alignment with their  
36 individualized education program. The high school and beyond plan  
37 must be developed in a similar manner and with similar school  
38 personnel as for all other students.

39       (iii)(A) The high school and beyond plan must be updated to  
40 reflect high school assessment results in RCW 28A.655.070(3)(b) and

1 to review transcripts, assess progress toward identified goals, and  
2 revised as necessary for changing interests, goals, and needs. The  
3 plan must identify available interventions and academic support,  
4 courses, or both, that are designed for students who are not on track  
5 to graduate, to enable them to fulfill high school graduation  
6 requirements. Each student's high school and beyond plan must be  
7 updated to inform junior year course taking.

8 (B) For students with an individualized education program, the  
9 high school and beyond plan must be updated in alignment with their  
10 school to postschool transition plan. The high school and beyond plan  
11 must be updated in a similar manner and with similar school personnel  
12 as for all other students.

13 (iv) School districts are encouraged to involve parents and  
14 guardians in the process of developing and updating the high school  
15 and beyond plan, and the plan must be provided to the students'  
16 parents or guardians in their native language if that language is one  
17 of the two most frequently spoken non-English languages of students  
18 in the district. Nothing in this subsection (1)(c)(iv) prevents  
19 districts from providing high school and beyond plans to parents and  
20 guardians in additional languages that are not required by this  
21 subsection.

22 (v) All high school and beyond plans must, at a minimum, include  
23 the following elements:

24 (A) Identification of career goals, aided by a skills and  
25 interest assessment;

26 (B) Identification of educational goals;

27 (C) Identification of dual credit programs and the opportunities  
28 they create for students, including eligibility for automatic  
29 enrollment in advanced classes under RCW 28A.320.195, career and  
30 technical education programs, running start programs, AP courses,  
31 international baccalaureate programs, and college in the high school  
32 programs;

33 (D) Information about the college bound scholarship program  
34 established in chapter 28B.118 RCW;

35 (E) A four-year plan for course taking that:

36 (I) Includes information about options for satisfying state and  
37 local graduation requirements;

38 (II) Satisfies state and local graduation requirements;

39 (III) Aligns with the student's secondary and postsecondary  
40 goals, which can include education, training, and career;

1 (IV) Identifies course sequences to inform academic acceleration,  
2 as described in RCW 28A.320.195 that include dual credit courses or  
3 programs and are aligned with the student's goals; and

4 (V) Includes information about the college bound scholarship  
5 program;

6 (F) Evidence that the student has received the following  
7 information on federal and state financial aid programs that help pay  
8 for the costs of a postsecondary program:

9 (I) Information about the documentation necessary for completing  
10 the applications; application timeliness and submission deadlines;  
11 the importance of submitting applications early; information specific  
12 to students who are or have been in foster care; information specific  
13 to students who are, or are at risk of being, homeless; information  
14 specific to students whose family member or guardians will be  
15 required to provide financial and tax information necessary to  
16 complete applications; and

17 (II) Opportunities to participate in sessions that assist  
18 students and, when necessary, their family members or guardians, fill  
19 out financial aid applications; and

20 (G) By the end of the twelfth grade, a current resume or activity  
21 log that provides a written compilation of the student's education,  
22 any work experience, and any community service and how the school  
23 district has recognized the community service pursuant to RCW  
24 28A.320.193.

25 (d) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's  
26 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan  
27 shall remain at the local level. Effective with the graduating class  
28 of 2015, the state board of education may not establish a requirement  
29 for students to complete a culminating project for graduation. A  
30 district may establish additional, local requirements for a high  
31 school and beyond plan to serve the needs and interests of its  
32 students and the purposes of this section.

33 (e) (i) The state board of education shall adopt rules to  
34 implement the career and college ready graduation requirement  
35 proposal adopted under board resolution on November 10, 2010, and  
36 revised on January 9, 2014, to take effect beginning with the  
37 graduating class of 2019 or as otherwise provided in this subsection  
38 (1) (e). The rules must include authorization for a school district to  
39 waive up to two credits for individual students based on a student's  
40 circumstances, provided that none of the waived credits are

1 identified as mandatory core credits by the state board of education.  
2 School districts must adhere to written policies authorizing the  
3 waivers that must be adopted by each board of directors of a school  
4 district that grants diplomas. The rules must also provide that the  
5 content of the third credit of mathematics and the content of the  
6 third credit of science may be chosen by the student based on the  
7 student's interests and high school and beyond plan with agreement of  
8 the student's parent or guardian or agreement of the school counselor  
9 or principal. The limitations on the ability of a school district to  
10 grant waivers under this subsection (1)(e)(i) shall not apply in  
11 circumstances where a district is granted flexibility from state  
12 requirements under an emergency waiver program established in section  
13 5 of this act.

14 (ii) School districts may apply to the state board of education  
15 for a waiver to implement the career and college ready graduation  
16 requirement proposal beginning with the graduating class of 2020 or  
17 2021 instead of the graduating class of 2019. In the application, a  
18 school district must describe why the waiver is being requested, the  
19 specific impediments preventing timely implementation, and efforts  
20 that will be taken to achieve implementation with the graduating  
21 class proposed under the waiver. The state board of education shall  
22 grant a waiver under this subsection (1)(e) to an applying school  
23 district at the next subsequent meeting of the board after receiving  
24 an application.

25 (iii) A school district must update the high school and beyond  
26 plans for each student who has not earned a score of level 3 or level  
27 4 on the middle school mathematics assessment identified in RCW  
28 28A.655.070 by ninth grade, to ensure that the student takes a  
29 mathematics course in both ninth and tenth grades. This course may  
30 include career and technical education equivalencies in mathematics  
31 adopted pursuant to RCW 28A.230.097.

32 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state  
33 board of education to establish and enforce minimum high school  
34 graduation requirements, the state board shall periodically  
35 reevaluate the graduation requirements and shall report such findings  
36 to the legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state  
37 board.

38 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements  
39 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career  
40 and technical education programs, particularly those programs that

1 lead to a certificate or credential that is state or nationally  
2 recognized. The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students  
3 enrolled in these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a  
4 certificate of academic achievement, complete the program and earn  
5 the program's certificate or credential, and complete other state and  
6 local graduation requirements.

7 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the  
8 high school graduation requirements to the education committees of  
9 the legislature for review. The legislature shall have the  
10 opportunity to act during a regular legislative session before the  
11 changes are adopted through administrative rule by the state board.  
12 Changes that have a fiscal impact on school districts, as identified  
13 by a fiscal analysis prepared by the office of the superintendent of  
14 public instruction, shall take effect only if formally authorized and  
15 funded by the legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or  
16 other enacted legislation.

17 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages  
18 other than English established by the state board of education or a  
19 local school district, or both, for purposes of high school  
20 graduation, students who receive instruction in American sign  
21 language or one or more American Indian languages shall be considered  
22 to have satisfied the state or local school district graduation  
23 requirement for instruction in one or more languages other than  
24 English.

25 (4) Unless requested otherwise by the student and the student's  
26 family, a student who has completed high school courses before  
27 attending high school shall be given high school credit which shall  
28 be applied to fulfilling high school graduation requirements if:

29 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the  
30 academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and  
31 eighth grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by  
32 completing the same course requirements and examinations as the high  
33 school students enrolled in the class; or

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

39 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high  
40 school courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this

1 section shall not be required to take an additional competency  
2 examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive  
3 credit.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Section 6 of this act expires July 31,  
7 2020."

8 Renumber the remaining section consecutively and correct any  
9 internal references accordingly.

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**ADOPTED 03/12/2020**

10 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "38.52.105" insert "and  
11 28A.230.090" and after "74.46 RCW;" insert "creating a new section;"  
12 and on line 3, after "appropriations;" insert "providing expiration  
13 dates;"

EFFECT: Allows the State Board of Education to establish an emergency waiver program to grant local education agencies flexibility from graduation requirements due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and to adopt rules to waive provisions for private schools due to the novel coronavirus. Sets an expiration date for the emergency waiver program of July 31, 2020.

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