HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

High School Graduation Requirements

Each student who has successfully completed an instructional program appropriate to his/her interests and needs shall be awarded a diploma at graduation ceremonies. The board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in the district who meets the requirements of graduation established by the district. Only one diploma shall be awarded.

The board shall establish graduation requirements, which as a minimum, satisfy those established by the state board of education:

	General Studies	Technical Pathway	Academic Pathway	Honors Pathway
English	4	4	4	4
Mathematics	3	3	3	4
Social Studies	3	3	3	4
Science (2 credit in laboratory science)	3	3	3	4
Occupational Education	1	3	1	1
Physical Education	1½	1½	1½	1½
Health	½	½	½	½
World Language	0	2	2	2
Fine, Visual or Performing Arts	1	1	2	2
Electives	7	3	4	1
Total	24	24	24	24

Culminating Project Requirement:
Each student shall present a completed culminating project for graduation. The project consists of the student demonstrating both their learning competencies and preparations related to state learning goals three and four.

Portfolio Requirement:
Each student as a part of his or her culminating project shall develop and maintain a portfolio to be used as a compilation of individual work over their high school career.

The High School and Beyond Plan:
Each student shall have an education plan for their high school experience including what he or she expect to do the year following graduation.

Certificate of Academic Achievement:
Each student shall obtain a Certificate of Academic Achievement. The Certificate of Academic Achievement will be issued to those students who successfully pass the HSPE exam in reading~~,~~ and writing along with the current state designated assessment in mathematics. As called for in state law, students will also be required to successfully pass the current state designated assessment in science when it becomes available.

Bridges Academy Program:
The Bridges Academy is a program offered through the Clark County Skills Center in partnership with ESD 112, and is designed to provide high quality vocational and technical education to students who have dropped out of high school or are in danger of dropping out due to credit deficiency. If a student residing in the district fails to thrive in regular high school course work and is in danger of dropping out of school, they may take advantage of the Bridges Academy program. If the student successfully completes the Bridges Academy program, the La Center will award the student a state diploma from the District (meeting the state required minimum credits). All students completing this program are eligible for participation in any graduation ceremony offered through the Clark County Skills Center and/or ESD 112. La Center High School graduation ceremony is only for those students who have met the district's full graduation requirements.

LINX Program:
The LINX program offers opportunities for high quality vocational and technical education to students who have dropped out of high school or are severely credit deficient. If a student residing in the district fails to thrive in regular high school course work and is in danger of dropping out of school, they may take advantage of the LINX program as an alternative option to a high school diploma. Students must complete the application and interview process in order to enroll in the LINX program. Additional training opportunities may come in the form of classes from the Skills Center or any other certified on-the-job training or apprenticeship program. If the student successfully completes the LINX program, La Center will award the student a Washington State Diploma from the La Center School District, certifying that the student has met the state-required minimum of 20 credits. This is **not** a La Center High School diploma. Seniors graduating from this program will receive a graduation ceremony separate from those students who have met the district's full 24-credit program.

Credits:
A credit is defined as 180 (50 minute) hours of planned in-school instruction excluding passing time. No student may earn more than one credit/year to satisfy the state board requirements in English, Mathematics and Science except as provided in WAC 180-51-065.

Graduation Requirement Procedure:
The board shall approve graduation requirements as recommended by the superintendent. The superintendent shall develop procedures for implementing this policy which include:

A. Recommending course and credit requirements which satisfy the state board of education requirements and recognize the desires of the citizens of the district;
B. Determining which courses satisfy particular subject area requirements and whether a particular course may satisfy more than one subject area requirement;
C. Making graduation requirements available in writing to students, parents and members of the public;
D. Granting credit for learning experiences conducted away from school, including National Guard high school career training;
E. Granting credit for correspondence, vocational-technical institutes, and/or college courses;
F. Granting credit for work experience within an approved vocational program;

G. Granting credit based upon competence testing, in lieu of enrollment;

H. Granting credit for high school courses completed before a student attended high school, to the extent that the course work exceeded the requirements for seventh or eighth grade.

I. Counseling of students to know what is expected of them for completion of their schooling;

J. Preparing a list of all graduating students for the information of the board and release to the public;

K. Preparing suitable diplomas and final transcripts for graduating seniors; and,
L. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies;

M. Annually notifying 10th and 11th grade students and their parents of the Running Start Program and the availability of high-school credit for community college and/or vocational-technical institute coursework;

In the event that the board adopts minimum test requirements, a student who possesses a handicapping condition shall satisfy those competency requirements, which are incorporated into the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Satisfactory completion of the objectives incorporated into the IEP shall serve as the basis for determining completion of a course.

A student shall be issued a diploma after completing the district's requirements for graduation. A student shall also be advised that he/she may receive a final transcript if requested prior to July 1, following graduation.

However, a student's diploma may be withheld until the student pays for any school property that has been lost or willfully damaged. Upon payment for damages, or the equivalency through voluntary work, the diploma will be released. The student or his/her parents may appeal the imposition of a charge for damages to the superintendent and the board of directors. The student and his/her parents shall be notified regarding the nature of the violation or damage, how restitution may be made, and how an appeal may be instituted. When the damages or fines do not exceed $100, the student or his/her parents shall have the right to an informal conference with the principal. As is the case for appealing a short-term suspension, the principal's decision may be appealed to the superintendent and to the board of directors. When damages are in excess of $100, the appeal process for long-term suspension shall apply.

Graduation requirements in effect when a student first enrolls in high school shall be in effect until that student graduates unless such period is in excess of ten years.

In the event that other forms of corrective actions are imposed for violations of school rules, the student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be granted.

Cross References:	Board Policy 3110	Qualifications of Attendance and Placement
	Board Policy 3241	Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishment
	Board Policy 3520	Student Fees, Fines and Charges
Legal References	RCW 28A.230.090	High school graduation requirements or equivalencies — Reevaluation and report by state board of education — Credit for courses taken before attending high school — Postsecondary credit equivalencies
	RCW 28A.230.120	Option to receive final transcripts — Notice
	RCW 28A.600.300-400	Running Start
	RCW 28A.635.060	Defacing or injuring school property — Liability of parent or guardian
	Chapter 180-50 WAC	Courses of studies and equivalencies
	Chapter 180-51 WAC	High school graduation requirements
	Chapter 180-57 WAC	Secondary Education — Standardized high school transcript
	Chapter 392-169 WAC	Running Start
Management Resources:		
	Policy News, April 1999	Variations complicate college credit equivalencies
	Policy News, December 2000	2004 High School Graduation Requirements Adopted
	Policy News, February 2004	High School Graduation Requirements
	Policy News, October 2004	Graduation Requirements: High School and Beyond Plans

La Center School District
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