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 with no distinctions being made between the various programs of instruction which may have been pursued.

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

	Credits Required
English	4
Mathematics	2
Social Studies	3½
Science (1 credit in laboratory science)	2
Occupational Education	1
Physical Education	2
Health	½
Fine, Visual or Performing Arts	1
Focus (Career Planning/Portfolio)	½
Senior Seminar	½
Electives	6
Total	23

Culminating Project Requirement:
Beginning with the graduating class of the year 2008, 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:
Beginning with the graduating class of the year 2008, each student as a part of their culminating project shall develop and maintain a portfolio to be used as a compilation of individual work over their high school career.

5th Year Plan Requirement:
Beginning with the graduating class of the year 2008, each student shall have an education plan for their high school experience, including what they expect to do the year following graduation.

Certificate of Academic Achievement:
Beginning with the graduating class of the year 2008, each student shall obtain a certificate of mastery. The certificate of mastery will be issued to those students who successfully pass the WASL exam comprised of reading, writing and mathematics.

CCAA Program:

The Center for Career and Academic Advancement (CCAA), a program offered through the Clark County Skills Center in partnership with ESD 112, 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/or the district's Alternative Learning Center (ALC) and is in danger of dropping out of school, they may take advantage of the CCAA program. If the student successfully completes the CCAA program, the district will award the student a state diploma. (19 credits minimum). All students completing this program are eligible for participation in any graduation ceremony offered through the Clark County Skills Center and/or ESD 112.

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. 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 minimum test requirements are adopted by the board, 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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