
High School Graduation Requirements

Purpose

The Valley School District Board of Directors has approved the development and operation of an Innovative Cooperative High School. The Board believes that this high school provides students with unique opportunities to become ready for life, career and future education. This policy outlines state- and district-specific requirements to earn a diploma from Valley School District.

Scope

This policy informs the Superintendent, administrators, principals, teachers and staff, parents or guardians, and students.

Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

The Valley School District Board of Directors will establish graduation requirements, which at a minimum satisfy those established by the State Board of Education. The Board will approve additional graduation requirements as recommended by the Superintendent or designee(s). The Board will award a regular high school diploma recognizing every student enrolled in the district who meets the requirements of graduation established by the district.

2. CREDIT- AND COURSE-BASED GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

2.1. The Board establishes the following credit-based graduation requirements which meet and/or exceed those established by the Washington State Board of Education:

English (reading, writing, and seminar)	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Science/Health	4 credits
Social Studies/History.....	4 credits
World Language.....	4 credits
Fine Arts.....	4 credits
Fitness	1.5 credits
<u>Occupational Education.....</u>	<u>1 credit</u>
Total	26.5 credits

Ninth grade students are required to take thirty (30) minutes of piano lessons weekly.

2.2. A credit may be awarded based on 150 hours of planned instructional activities. A credit may also be awarded as a result of a student's demonstration of proficiency or competency as measured by the state's essential academic learning requirements. Students must earn part of their credits based upon proficiency or competency in order to fulfill these graduation requirements.

2.3. Credit-based graduation requirements may be fulfilled over the course of one or more years. The fulfillment criteria for such requirements will be clear to staff, students and

parents, and shall be communicated through student handbooks, course description/syllabus documents and/or other methods described in corresponding procedure.

3. OTHER GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1. In addition to the minimum credit requirements, to earn a diploma each student must:

- (a) Pass the Smarter Balanced Comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) exit exam or a state-approved assessment alternative.
- (b) Complete a High School and Beyond Plan.
- (c) Complete a culminating project.
- (d) Pass the Smarter Balanced Comprehensive Math exit exam or a state-approved assessment alternative.
- (e) Participate in the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS) exam or a state-approved science assessment alternative.
- (f) Complete the Washington State History and Government requirement.

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND ANNUAL REVIEW

4.1. The Superintendent or designee will develop and annually review procedures for implementing this policy in accordance with applicable state law.

5. TRANSCRIPTS, FINES AND REMEDIES

- 5.1. A student will be advised that he/she may receive a final transcript. Graduation requirements in effect when a student first enrolls in high school (9th grade) will remain in effect until he/she graduates, in alignment with state requirements.
- 5.2. A student's diploma or transcript 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 or transcript will be released. The student or his/her parents will have the right to an appeal using the same process as used for short-term suspension as defined in Policy 3241-Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Action and related procedures.
- 5.3. 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 will be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be granted.

Related Procedures

2410P1-High School Graduation Requirements

2418P1-Waiver of High School Graduation Credits

Policy Cross References

2418-Waiver of High School Graduation Credits
3110-Qualifications of Attendance and Placement
3241-Classroom Management, Discipline and Corrective Action
3412-Automated External Defibrillators

Policy Legal References

RCW 28A.230.090 – High school graduation requirements or equivalencies—Reevaluation of graduation requirements—Review and authorization of proposed changes—Credit for courses taken before attending high school—Postsecondary credit equivalencies
RCW 28A.230.097 – Career and technical high school course equivalencies
RCW 28A.230.120 – High school diplomas—Issuance—Option to receive final transcripts—Notice
Chapter 28A.340 RCW – Small high school cooperative projects
RCW 28A.600.300-400 – Running Start Program
RCW 28A.635.060 – Defacing or injuring school property—Liability of pupil, parent or guardian—Withholding grades, diploma, or transcripts—Suspension and restitution—Voluntary work program as alternative—Rights protected
Chapter 180-51 WAC – High school graduation requirements
WAC 392-121-182 – Alternative Learning Experience Requirements
Chapter 392-169 WAC – Special service programs—Running start program
Chapter 392-348 WAC – Secondary Education
Chapter 392-410 WAC – Courses of studies and equivalencies
WAC 392-410-350 – Seal of Biliteracy
WAC 392-415-070 – Mandatory high school transcript contents—Items—Timelines
Laws of 2018, ch. 127, § 2 Civics Education

Management Resources

Policy & Legal News, May 2018 – Policy Updates
Policy & Legal News, October 2017 – Policy for graduation requirements revised to reflect recent legislation
Policy & Legal News, April, October 2015 – Other Policy Updates
Policy & Legal News, December 2014 – High school graduation policy overhauled to reflect new laws

Policy & Legal News, September 2013 – One health class required for graduation must now include instruction in CPR and use of AED

Policy News, April 2012 – State Board of Education revised credit requirements for graduation

Policy News, October 2011

Policy News, June 2010 – High School Proficiency Examination

Policy History

Action:	Date:
Approved by the Board	July 18, 2012
Revised	February 19, 2014
Revised	August 17, 2016
Revised	November 21, 2018
Revised	