

# **GRADUATION TOOLKIT**

## ***Class of 2023***

### **An Implementation Guide for Washington's Minimum Graduation Requirements**

**Prepared by:**

- **Kim Reykdal, M.Ed**, Director, Graduation and Pathway Preparation  
[kim.reykdal@k12.wa.us](mailto:kim.reykdal@k12.wa.us) | 360-870-8563
- **Alexandra Toney, M.Ed, BCBA**, Program Supervisor, Special Services  
[alexandra.toney@k12.wa.us](mailto:alexandra.toney@k12.wa.us) | 360-280-7893



Washington Office of Superintendent of  
**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

**Published  
November 2022**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	2
STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023 .....	4
STATE AND LOCAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS .....	5
LAWS AND RULES FOR CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS .....	5
DEVELOP A HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN .....	6
Required HSBP Components .....	6
Required HSBP Development Processes .....	7
COMPLETE A GRADUATION PATHWAY .....	10
Use of "Pathway" in Multiple Contexts .....	10
CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION PATHWAYS .....	11
GRADUATION PATHWAYS .....	12
MEET STATE & LOCAL SUBJECT AREA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS .....	17
Additional Flexibility in Meeting Graduation Requirements for Unique Student Populations .....	20
High School Transcript Developer User Guides and FAQ .....	23
Graduation Requirement Waivers and Appeals .....	23
GRADUATION CEREMONIES .....	26
STUDENTS NEEDING MORE TIME TO GRADUATE .....	27
SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT SCORES AND COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES' PLACEMENT AGREEMENTS .....	29
APPENDIX .....	30
APPENDIX A: RESOURCES .....	30
APPENDIX B: ABBREVIATIONS .....	34
REVISION LOG .....	35
Legal Notice .....	36

## **Welcome to Washington State's Graduation Pathways Toolkit for the Class of 2023!**

The Class of 2023 Graduation Toolkit provides school counselors, graduation specialists, and school and district leaders with comprehensive guidance about Washington's current requirements and available resources to support students to prepare for graduation and beyond. Ensuring your understanding of graduation requirements and senior-year transition processes can assist you with helping our students succeed in preparing and building plans for their future.

This year's Graduation Pathways Toolkit focuses on providing support for the Class of 2023 within a comprehensive school counseling program. Students graduating with the Class of 2023 spent most of their high school careers encountering the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and as such, are most in need of a focus on building a sense of hope for their future, which school counselors and staff will need to prioritize. Connecting with seniors early this year will be critical to ensure they can revise, if needed, and complete their plan to prepare for their post-secondary goals.

While a comprehensive school counseling program is comprised of many elements that work in conjunction to provide the most inclusive student support possible, college and career readiness ties together each of the domains of student preparedness: academic development, career development, and social-emotional development. Readiness for their next steps after graduation is possible when students are socially and emotionally supported, as well as academically prepared for the demands of post-secondary education and employment. In order to ensure students are supported on all levels, it is important for staff to engage in collaborative efforts to address all domains of a comprehensive school counseling program.

Washington is leading the nation in building innovative opportunities to equitably prepare each student for an ever-changing economy. More than just graduation requirements, the Graduation Pathways and High School and Beyond Plan need to become the framework for providing annual academic guidance and career exploration that helps guide every one of our students' course choices and engagement in activities through middle and high school.

The OSPI team is your partner in the pathway-based learning happening within your district's comprehensive school counseling programs. Our goal is to assist your efforts to provide caring and engaging environments where all students are supported to prepare for life beyond high school.

Thank you for the critical work you do to guide students through!



Chris Reykdal

Superintendent of Public Instruction

# STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2023

Completion of Washington State's minimum graduation requirements, as established by the state legislature and the State Board of Education (SBE), signifies that a student is prepared to successfully transition into life post-high school. In 2019, the legislature removed state testing as a requirement and instead approved multiple graduation pathways that provide students with more options to demonstrate their preparation for their first step after high school.

Students fulfill the state graduation requirements that are in place for their expected graduation year (cohort), which is determined upon their entry into any public high school beginning their 9th grade year. Students needing more than four years to graduate must still meet the graduation requirements of their original graduation year cohort.

All students who entered 9th grade during the 2019–20 school year (Class of 2023) must meet all state and local requirements:

1. *Develop a [High School and Beyond Plan \(HSBP\)](#)*

All students, with the help of educators and students' families, if possible, must build a HSBP that shows how they will meet state and local graduation requirements and prepare for what they want to do following high school. A student's HSBP, which starts no later than 8th grade, is annually revised by students throughout high school to adjust for changing interests and goals.

2. *Complete a [Graduation Pathway](#)*

Students will complete one or more graduation pathways to demonstrate their preparation for a meaningful first step after high school, which could include engaging in work, starting an apprenticeship, attending college, or joining the military. The graduation pathway(s) chosen by a student must be aligned with their HSBP.

3. *Complete [High School Subject Area Requirements](#)*

All students must complete specific course requirements, including any Personalized Pathway Requirement courses, and other credit requirements established by their local districts. Through course completion and credit-earning opportunities aligned to the state's Learning Standards, students gain the needed communication and subject area knowledge and skills outlined in Washington's Goals of Basic Education.

\*The Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) is no longer available for the Class of 2022 and beyond.

# STATE AND LOCAL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

School districts may have other locally determined graduation requirements, such as additional credits, community service, or a senior project. While schools are expected to communicate all graduation requirements and highly encouraged to share information annually regarding all students' progress toward graduation (see [WAC 180-51-045](#)), students and their families should be made aware of all state and local graduation requirements when they begin high school.

Parents should direct questions about graduation requirements to their student(s) and staff at the high school or school district office.

## LAWS AND RULES FOR CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

High School and Beyond Plan = See [RCW 28A.230.090](#), and [WAC 180-51-220](#)

Graduation Pathways = See [RCW 28A.655.250](#) and [WAC 180-51-230](#)

Credit Requirements = See [RCW 28A.230.090](#), [RCW 28A.230.122](#) and [WAC 180-51-210](#)



# DEVELOP A HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND PLAN

The HSBP is intended to provide each student a framework through which to engage in annual career and college exploration and preparation. Through the HSBP process, students are given an opportunity to explore opportunities related to these guiding questions:

- **Who am I?**
- **What can I become?**
- **How do I become that?**

Beginning no later than 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students work with school staff and their families to create their own personalized plan that, through annual revision, results in the development of a strategy for a meaningful first step following graduation.

School districts are strongly encouraged to involve parents and guardians in the process of developing and updating the HSBP as a way to increase awareness of opportunities their student can access to prepare for postsecondary goals and track completion of all graduation requirements.

## Required HSBP Components

To fulfill the HSBP graduation requirement, as outlined in [RCW 28A.230.090](#), the HSBP must contain, at minimum, the following specific components and information:

1. Identification of **career goals**, aided by a **skills and interest inventory/assessment**
2. Identification of **educational goals**
3. A **course taking plan** that:
  - fulfills state and local graduation requirements,
  - aligns with the student's career and educational goals,
  - includes options for advanced coursework (see pg. 19 for details), and
  - documents chosen Graduation Pathway(s) (see pgs.13-21 for details).
4. A **résumé** or **activity log**
5. Evidence that the student has **received information on state and federal financial aid programs** that help pay for college (see pg. 10 for details)

For students accessing special services, the HSBP must be completed in addition to, and in alignment with, the student's IEP Transition Plan. More detailed information can be found on page 8.

# Required HSBP Development Processes

This section includes additional details about the required elements of a HSBP and outlines important processes and timelines that must be followed when developing a HSBP.

1. The HSBP must be started by 8th grade, but ideally sooner, beginning with a **career and skill interest inventory**.
  - The results of the career assessment will be used to establish initial **career goals** and **inform both middle school and 9th grade course-taking** that supports meaningful preparation for, and transition to, high school.
2. The HSBP must include evidence that the student has received information about the **College Bound Scholarship (CBS)**.
  - High school students in the CBS Program should be reminded about their requirements to remain eligible.
  - For more detailed information on the College Bound Scholarship Program, go to the [Washington Student Achievement Council's \(WSAC\) website](#).

## Important Note for Class of 2024 and beyond:

Per Senate Bill 5321 (2021), 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and newly-eligible 9<sup>th</sup> graders qualifying for free and reduced price lunch will now be auto-enrolled in the **College Bound Scholarship (CBS)**. The CBS is an early commitment of state financial aid, and it can cover average tuition at public college rates, some fees, and a small book allowance at over 65 colleges, universities, and technical schools in Washington.

3. The HSBP must be **updated annually** to reflect academic progress toward graduation (via a transcript review) and adjust for changing interests, goals, or needs. Additionally, at the **end of 10th grade**, the annual HSBP update must also:
  - Incorporate the results of the statewide assessments in ELA and Math<sup>1</sup>; and
  - use SBA scores to inform 11th grade course taking, per [RCW 28A.230.090](#).

**Note:** The spring 2023 administration will provide a make-up option for Class of 2023 seniors who could not access the SBA in 2021 or 2022. Unofficial score results can be accessed by your District Assessment Coordinator within five days of completing the assessment and can be used to determine if a senior has met their Graduation Pathway.

<sup>1</sup> Students' English Language Arts (ELA) and Math scores on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade statewide assessments are not listed on page 6 as Required HSBP Components. However, students' HSBP course taking plans **must** be updated to reflect their performance on the SBA relative to their junior year course selections. **Students without SBA scores must use other available data to inform their 11th grade schedule.**

4. The HSBP must include identification of **available dual credit** and **career and technical education (CTE) programs**, including **eligibility for automatic enrollment in advanced math, ELA and/or science classes** under [RCW 28A.320.195](#), as aligned with a student’s post-high school goals<sup>2</sup>.
  - Dual credit courses provide students with the potential to earn high school and college (100 level+) credit for the same course.
5. For students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) Transition Plan (which must be started by the school year during which they will turn 16), **HSBPs must be developed and updated in alignment with the goals within their transition plans**.
  - Per [RCW 28A.230.090](#), HSBP activities and supports must also be provided **in a similar manner and with similar school personnel as for all other students**.
  - Students with an IEP Transition Plan may use their plan in support of, but not as a replacement for, their HSBP.
  - [OSPI’s Secondary Transitions webpage](#) includes the following resources to support IEP Teams, school counselors, or advisors with the alignment process:
    - Guidelines for Aligning High School and Beyond Plans and IEP Transition Plans that describe essential elements and best practices.
    - Examples of best practice HSBP models (Appendix B).
    - Student and educator checklists of relevant and required tasks to complete for postsecondary preparation and transition.
6. Districts are highly encouraged to involve parents and guardians in the processes of developing and updating the HSBP.
  - The HSBP **must** be translated and available in at least the two most frequently spoken non-English languages for students in the district.
7. The HSBP must include evidence that the student has received **information on state and federal financial aid programs** that help pay for college, which includes:
  - Documentation needed for completing a FAFSA or WASFA.
  - Application timelines and submission deadlines.
  - The importance of submitting these applications early.
  - Specific information for students who have been or are in foster care and who are, or are at risk of, experiencing homelessness.
  - Information about how to receive assistance with completing financial aid applications
  - Refer to the [WSAC website](#) for more information and resources.

---

<sup>2</sup> Per the 2019 update to [RCW 28A.320.195](#), **by the 2021-22 school year**, each school district board of directors shall **adopt an academic acceleration policy** for high school students. Districts who had already adopted an academic acceleration policy based on the initial RCW should have amended their policy to **include course-choice alignment with the HSBP**.



### **Important Note About Seniors:**

Per Senate Bill 6141 (2020), all seniors must be given the option to attend a school-sponsored Financial Aid Advising Day (FAAD) to receive information and assistance with completing the FAFSA or WASFA, and to learn about other financial aid options, including the Washington College Grant.

Schools are encouraged to utilize the FAAD as an opportunity to ensure that all seniors have met the required financial aid component of their HSBP (#7 above).

- For more details about FAAD, including free resources to help schools host this event, go to [WSAC's 12th Year Campaign website](#).

8. For students not on track to graduate, their HSBP must also identify **interventions and academic supports and/or courses** that are available to help them fulfill high school graduation requirements. Possible courses may include career and technical education (CTE) equivalencies in ELA or math adopted pursuant to [RCW 28A.230.097](#) and as listed on OSPI's [CTE Resources webpage](#).
9. For students not earning a score of 3 or 4 on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math statewide assessment, as identified in [RCW 28A.655.070](#), a school district must update the HSBP to ensure that the **student takes a math course in both 9th and 10th grades**.
  - The math courses may include CTE equivalencies, as listed on OSPI's [CTE Resources webpage](#).
  - Since SBA assessments were postponed in 2020 and 2021, there are no SBA scores with which to fulfill HSBP components as described in #9 and #10 for students in the Classes of 2024 and 2025. However, it would be considered best practice to ensure all students complete math or CTE equivalent courses in both 9th and 10th grade.
10. Districts are encouraged to inform students not earning a score of 3 or 4 on the middle school ELA or science statewide assessments of high school supports and courses that will address their learning needs.

### **Important Note about Student Learning Plans: Classes of 2024 & 2025**

The Student Learning Plan requirement is waived for students in the graduating classes of 2024 and 2025 since there was no spring 2020 or spring 2021 SBA administration.

Instead, the HSBP should be used to communicate with students and families about available supports, and to document utilized interventions. OSPI's HSBP template has an already-developed "[Academic Supports and Interventions](#)" page that schools can choose to use or modify as needed to serve as the Student Learning Plan.

# COMPLETE A GRADUATION PATHWAY

In combination with a robust career and college exploration and planning process (the HSBP) and quality instruction, completing a Graduation Pathway helps prepare students for their postsecondary goals.

[RCW 28A.655.250](#) requires all students to complete at least one graduation pathway, in alignment with their HSBP, to graduate.

All graduation pathways are intended for all students, however, not all districts must offer all pathways. Per RCW 28A.655.250, “the legislature encourages school districts to make all pathway options...available to their high school students, and to expand their pathway options until that goal is met, school districts have discretion in determining which pathway options under this section they will offer to students”.

## Use of “Pathway” in Multiple Contexts

What is the difference between graduation pathways and other “pathways” related to graduation requirements? The following definitions should help clarify the many uses of this term:

- **Graduation Pathways**

One of many course or exam-based options students can complete in order to demonstrate their preparation for a meaningful first step after high school.

- **Personalized Pathway Requirements (PPR)**

Refers to three “flexible” credits (2.0 credits of World Language and the second 1.0 credit of Fine Art). Students may choose to take classes other than these that can better prepare them for the goals outlined their High School and Beyond Plan.

- **Career Pathways or CTE Pathways**

These terms may be used to describe ways in which schools are establishing options for students to take a series of courses, (which may include both career- related and “core” academic subjects), designed to prepare students for success in a career cluster or CTE program area. These can be different than a CTE Sequence Graduation Pathway (pgs. 15-17).

- **Guided Pathways**

Washington’s community and technical colleges are using Guided Pathways that simplify career and course choices to help students make better course selections, minimize achievement gaps, and increase the number of students who graduate with a high-value certificate or degree. See the SBCTC [Guided Pathways](#) website for more information.

# CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION PATHWAYS

Click here to reach the webpage with a downloadable [Graduation Pathways Quick Reference Guide](#)

## **Career/Technical Field = CTE Sequence**

- Complete a sequence of 2.0 or more CTE credits that either includes a dual credit course or leads to an industry recognized credential
- Complete a recognized Core Plus program

## **Military Career Interest – ASVAB Exam (AFQT Section only)**

- Score for Class of 2023= 31
- Check the [State Board of Education website](#) by September 1 annually for score update

## **Postsecondary Education = English Language Arts (ELA) and Math Courses and Exams (student must complete both an ELA and math option)**

*Students may use any combination of the ELA and math options listed in this section:*

- College Admissions Exams (with or without Writing or Essay):
  - ACT: ELA = 14; math = 16
  - SAT: ELA = 410; math = 430
- Dual Credit courses (1.0 credit total for ELA and/or math):
  - AP/IB/Cambridge: Earn a C+ (each term) in state-approved course
  - CTE Dual Credit: Must earn high school credit in ELA and/or math.
    - In other words, the CTE Dual Credit course must be approved locally to count as a math and/or ELA course
  - College in the High School or Running Start courses: Local approval
- Dual Credit exams (for state-approved courses, see pgs. ):
  - AP = 3 or higher
  - Cambridge = E or better
  - IB = 4 or higher
- State assessments:
  - Smarter Balanced: ELA = 2548; math = 2595
  - WA-AIM: ELA = 104; math = 103
- Transition courses (1.0 credit total for ELA and/or math):
  - Bridge to College courses have state-level approval
  - Local articulation agreement allowed between districts and sponsoring colleges

For questions, please contact OSPI staff at [graduation.pathways@k12.wa.us](mailto:graduation.pathways@k12.wa.us) or [maria.muto@k12.wa.us](mailto:maria.muto@k12.wa.us). Find more detailed information at <https://www.sbe.wa.gov/our-work/graduation-pathway-options>

# GRADUATION PATHWAYS

## Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)

Taking the ASVAB exam helps students understand their skills and aptitudes in eight (8) topic areas, several of which are not tested by other standardized exams. Participants are given access to a national career exploration website and can use it and other resources to explore career options within military service or in civilian jobs that match their skills. Districts offering this pathway are encouraged to participate in the [ASVAB Career Exploration Program](#).

By earning at least the minimum score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) portion of the ASVAB, as posted on the [SBE website](#) no later than September 1 each year, students demonstrate their readiness to enter the military or a related career, and take a meaningful next step after high school. The AFQT tests, which are the sections of the ASVAB exam required for eligibility to serve in a branch of the armed services, include arithmetic reasoning, mathematics knowledge, paragraph comprehension, and word knowledge. There is no separate math and/or ELA component to this graduation pathway. To meet this pathway requirement, students must take the ASVAB while in high school. They may either meet the minimum score the year they take the ASVAB or the score established by any military branch on a later date prior to the student graduating or turning 21 years of age.

### Important Notes:

- The military has age and other restrictions concerning the acceptance of the ASVAB. Students considering a military career should look into military entrance requirements.
- For the Class of 2023, the minimum AFQT score is **31**. Staff should check the [SBE website](#) for an update after September 1 each year.

For students choosing to follow the ASVAB Graduation Pathway, the school must inform students about the following:

- The minimum AFQT eligibility score required by each branch of the military.
- The eligibility requirements of specific military occupations, as listed on the SBE's website and available through the [ASVAB Career Exploration Program](#).
- How their scores and personal information might be shared with the Department of Defense, and
- How to opt out of sharing their scores with the military recruiters.

Pursuant to the rules set by SBE in [WAC 180-51-230](#), students who meet the SBE-determined eligibility score on the AFQT section of the ASVAB will have met the requirement for the ASVAB Graduation Pathway. There is no separate math and/or ELA component to this graduation pathway. Students also do not have to meet other minimum requirements for military enlistment, nor do they have to enlist or provide their scores to the military for purposes of recruitment.

## Career and Technical Education (CTE) Sequence

The CTE Sequence Graduation Pathway is the most unique of the graduation pathways. Like the ASVAB Graduation Pathway, there is no separate math and/or ELA requirement. By building upon what has been in place to guide the development of CTE programs, schools can provide new graduation pathway options that represent an even broader range of interests and post-high school goals.

One option is to complete a Core Plus program, which results in earning a Core Plus certificate, indicating readiness for entry-level employment with Core Plus partners.

- The mostly widely available Core Plus program is in [Aerospace Manufacturing](#).
- There is also a newly available [Maritime Core Plus](#) program.
- OSPI's [CTE Resources webpage](#) links to the Statewide Framework for [Core Plus Construction](#). Also check out OSPI's resource on [Core Plus within the Construction Career Cluster](#).

OR, students may complete a 2.0-credit sequence of courses relevant to the student's postsecondary goals, as outlined in the HSBP, and that meets the following criteria:

- Leads to a state or nationally recognized certificate or credential OR provides students the opportunity to earn dual credit via a course in the sequence.
  - OSPI continues to work with education and industry partners to develop a comprehensive list of qualifying industry-recognized credentials.
- Consists of a sequenced progression of technically intensive and rigorous courses.
- Leads to workforce entry, a state or nationally approved apprenticeship, or postsecondary education in a related field.
- Exists in a single CTE program area, or in more than one program area, if approved.

If the sequence of courses spans more than one CTE program area, **the sequence must be approved through a statewide approval process** by:

- A local school board or designee, and/or a district or State-Tribal Education Compact (STEC) CTE advisory committee (established under [RCW 28A.150.500](#)), and
- OSPI through submission of the Local CTE Graduation Pathway form found in the Graduation Alternatives application in EDS.
  - OSPI should respond within 45 days. If the district does not receive a timely response, the sequence is deemed approved. If not approved, OSPI must provide a written explanation.
  - Once approved, a Local CTE Graduation Pathway may be implemented by other districts upon notifying OSPI (further approval by OSPI is not necessary).
- The list of OSPI approved and available CTE Sequences spanning more than one program area can be found on OSPI's [CTE webpage](#).

**Note:** As part of the HSBP, districts will determine if students have met their graduation pathway requirement. Since not all graduation pathway data may be in CEDARS, contact your CTE Director or District Assessment Coordinator for more information.

## CTE Sequences in an Alternative Learning Experience (ALE)

Alternative schools can offer CTE courses; however, courses must be approved by OSPI's CTE Department through the course approval process to be counted toward this graduation pathway. Based on current funding rules, ALE courses are not eligible for enhanced CTE funding.

To offer the CTE Sequence Graduation Pathway through ALE courses, connect with the district or STEC CTE Director for more information on what courses and/or sequences have been approved to offer. For districts/STECs choosing to prioritize offering CTE Sequence Graduation Pathways in ALE, the options may include:

- Forgo the enhanced CTE funding to offer a CTE sequence through ALE.
- Use an in-person, seat-time based model at an alternative school to offer a CTE sequence.
- Create policies and systems allowing for co-enrollment across multiple school settings such as an alternative school, high school, and/or a skill center.

## Combination of Graduation Pathways (ELA and/or Math)

Students may choose to meet their graduation pathway requirement with a combination of at least one ELA and at least one math graduation pathway option, as described in the Graduation Pathways information within pages 14-17 of this toolkit.

## College Admission Exam Scores for ELA and/or Math

Students may demonstrate their readiness for postsecondary education options by using a college admission exam score graduation pathway. Exam scores from the SAT, SAT with Essay, ACT or ACT with Writing may be used, as applicable.

Students must meet or exceed the minimum scores set by the SBE on an approved college admission exam in ELA or math as follows:

### Minimum Scores Needed for the Classes of 2017 Through 2023

Exam	ELA	Math
ACT	N/A	16
ACT with Writing	14	16
SAT with or without Essay	410	430

## Dual Credit Courses for ELA and/or Math

Students who complete an approved dual credit course in ELA or math in which they have the potential to earn college credit (100 level or above) may use passage of the course(s) to meet a Dual Credit Graduation Pathway. Eligible courses must be offered through Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge International (CI), International Baccalaureate (IB), CTE Dual Credit, College in the High School (CiHS), Running Start (RS), or other state-approved dual credit programs.

For AP/CI/IB dual credit courses, students must earn at least a 1.0 high school credit with a grade of C+ or higher *each term* to qualify for using the course as a graduation pathway. Students do not need to take or pass the corresponding exam to use this course-based Dual Credit Graduation Pathway.

For CiHS/CTE Dual Credit/RS, students must earn at least 1.0 high school credit and be eligible to earn college credit (100 level or higher) by meeting criteria established by the local school district and the institute of higher education. Students do not have to pay the CiHS or CTE Dual Credit course fees, nor actually earn the college credit, to meet this graduation pathway.

**Note:** The previous state requirements related to using dual credit courses as an “alternative to meeting standard on the state assessment” no longer apply. With the shift to graduation pathways as a way to demonstrate postsecondary preparation, these dual credit courses do not have to be acknowledged by the sponsoring college as being able to fulfill a “Math/Quantitative” or “English/Communications” course. Instead, the high school must approve the course as meeting standard for a college-level ELA or math option. Once locally approved, the dual credit course may be used to meet the student’s graduation pathway.

**Note:**

The list of eligible AP/CI/IB courses for the course-based Dual Credit Graduation Pathway is the same as the list of exams that are approved for the exam-based Dual Credit Graduation Pathway in the next section.

## Dual Credit Exam Scores for ELA and/or Math (AP/CI/IB)

AP/CI/IB dual credit courses can also provide participants with the *potential* to earn high school and college credit (100 level or higher) for the same class by passing the corresponding standardized exam. Students meeting standard on approved ELA and/or math exams for AP/CI/IB courses can meet the exam-based Dual Credit Graduation Pathway via the following exam scores:

- Scoring a 3 or higher on one of the approved AP exams.
- Scoring a 4 or higher on one of the approved IB exams.
- Scoring an “E” or better on one of the approved Advanced or Advanced Subsidiary (A/AS) CI exams.

The following section lists the AP/CI/IB exams that are approved options for both the course- and exam-based Dual Credit Graduation Pathways:

### Advanced Placement Exams

*English Language Arts:* English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Psychology, US History, World History, US Government and Politics, or Comparative Government and Politics

*Mathematics:* Statistics, Computer Science, Computer Science Principles, or Calculus

## Cambridge International Exams

Advanced (A) or Advanced Subsidiary (AS)

*English Language Arts:* English Language, Literature in English, English General Paper, Psychology, History, Sociology, Global Perspective and Research, or Law

*Mathematics:* Mathematics or Further Mathematics

## International Baccalaureate Exams

*English Language Arts:* Language A: Literature, Language A: Language and Literature, Business Management, Economics, Geography, History, Information Technology in a Global Society, Philosophy, Psychology, Social and Cultural Anthropology, or World Religions

*Mathematics:* any IB math course

## Statewide Assessment Scores in ELA and/or Math

Washington's statewide assessments provide students with one measure of their skill development and give schools important information on where to reassess and improve instruction. All students, regardless of which graduation pathway they intend to complete, are expected to take the appropriate Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) in ELA and math during 10th grade, and to incorporate their results into their HSBP. For some students, the SBA or WA-AIM may also serve as their graduation pathway, which can be met by either:

- Achieving the high school graduation cut score, as set by the State Board of Education (SBE), on the on-grade level SBA:  
  
ELA = 2548 | Math = 2595
- For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who qualify per their IEP, achieving the high school graduation cut score on the on-grade level Washington Access to Instruction and Measurement (WA-AIM) assessment:

ELA = 104 | Math = 103

## Transition Course for ELA and/or Math

For this graduation pathway, per [RCW 28B.10.016](#), the definition of a transition course includes an ELA or math course offered in high school that satisfies core or elective credits for high school graduation and, based on the grade (see Note on next page), allows the student to place directly into a credit-bearing ELA or math college-level course (100 level or above) at participating colleges.

This definition includes transition courses identified through local agreements between sponsoring colleges and school districts, and any agreements that have been approved at the state level, such as the Bridge to College (BTC) ELA and math courses.



- Successful completion for this graduation pathway is defined as **passing the course** within a single school year and earning at least a **1.0 high school credit** in ELA or math, as determined locally.

BTC math courses are ideal for students who have completed Algebra II or its equivalent but may have struggled to master the content and want to be better prepared for college-level math.

**Note:** To earn actual college-level course placement (100 level or higher) at any community and technical college in Washington, students must earn a B grade or better for the **final term** (Math) or **any term** (ELA) of a BTC course along with completing the course and earning 1.0 credit. See the SBCTCs [Bridge To College Frequently Asked Questions](#) or [OSPI's BTC website](#) for additional information.

## Graduation Pathways and Earning the Seal of Biliteracy

For students seeking to earn the Seal of Biliteracy, [WAC 392-410-350](#) removed the requirement for students to have met standard on the SBA in ELA. Now, students can be considered as having met the ELA standard for the Seal of Biliteracy by meeting any of the graduation pathway options outlined in [RCW 28A.655.250](#), including the ASVAB and CTE Sequence Graduation Pathways, even though they do not specifically require demonstrating proficiency on ELA and math learning standards!

**Note:** OSPI is also working to broaden access to more languages in which students can demonstrate their proficiency and increase access to assessments in rural areas. The intention of this work is providing a broader group of students with more opportunities to meet their World Language requirement for four-year college admissions.



# MEET STATE & LOCAL SUBJECT AREA CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

The specific credit requirements for the Class of 2023 are described in [WAC 180-51-210](#). Districts may require additional credit(s) or other non-credit requirements. Students and families should check with high school staff for additional information about local graduation requirements.

Class of 2023 Cohort: **Students entering 9th grade from July 2019 through June 2020.**

Subject	Number of Credits	Additional Information
English	4	
Math	3	Algebra 1 or Integrated Math 1 Geometry or Integrated Math 2 A 3rd credit of math based on HSBP*
Science	3	At least two lab sciences 3rd credit of science based on HSBP*
Social Studies	3	1.0 US History and Government 0.5 Contemporary World History, Geography, and Current World Problems 0.5 credits of Civics (standalone course for Class of 2024) 1.0 credits of social studies elective Washington State History (can be for no credit)****
Fine, Visual or Performing Arts	2	1.0 credit of Art can be substituted for another course, in alignment with the student's HSBP, as part of the student's Personalized Pathway Requirement (PPR)**
World Language	2	1.0 or 2.0 credits of World Language can also be substituted for other courses as part of the student's Personalized Pathway Requirement (PPR)**
Career & Technical Education	1	May meet the definition of an exploratory course as described in the <a href="#">CTE program standards RCW 28A.700.010</a>
Health and Fitness	2	0.5 credit of Health 1.5 credits of Physical Education***
Electives	4	

## Credit Chart Key

- \* The 3rd credits of math and science are chosen by students based on their postsecondary goals as documented in their HSBP and approved by a parent/guardian. If a parent/guardian is unavailable to approve their student's course decision, a school counselor/principal can approve students' courses per [WAC 180-51-210](#).
  - Per [SB 5299](#) (2021), students may use a computer science course to meet their 3rd year math or science, if in alignment with their HSBP. See the [SBE's FAQ website](#).
- \*\* PPR course substitutions empower students to better prepare for a specific post-high school career or educational outcome based on their HSBP. The flexibility of these 3.0 credits allows students to take other relevant preparatory courses that support their postsecondary goals.
- \*\*\* Students must earn credit for physical education (PE) unless **excused** per [RCW 28A.230.050](#). Students may be excused from PE (but not Health). Such excused students shall be required to demonstrate mastery in the knowledge portion of the physical education requirement, in accordance with written district policy. Such policies should be ensure alignment with health and physical education learning standards as well as alternative means of engaging in physical activities, as directed in [RCW 28A.210.365](#).
  - PE and Health credits are mandatory core or foundational credits, and therefore are not eligible to be waived through the waiver for individual student circumstances (see page 26).
  - If a student is **excused** from PE course(s), the up-to-1.5 credits of PE earned through demonstration of competency/mastery, per written district policy (see [WAC 180-51-051](#) for what the policy must include), must appear on the student's transcript, coded in CEDARS with the appropriate designation, to indicate how the PE credits were earned.
- \*\*\*\* The Washington State History (WSH) requirement may be met by a non-credit bearing middle school or high school course or a for-credit high school course. Per [WAC 180-51- 210](#), WSH may be waived locally for students who
  - successfully completed a state history course in another state, or
  - are in 11th or 12th grade and did not complete a WSH course because of previous residence outside the state, or
  - experienced an emergency that prevented the student from having the opportunity to complete the course.

# Additional Statutory Flexibility in Meeting Graduation Requirements for Unique Student Populations

## Supporting Students Receiving Special Education Services

Students receiving special education services will meet graduation requirements, including subject area credit requirements and graduation pathway options, as directed by their IEP team. Students must not be restricted from accessing graduation pathways based on their disability. A student's graduation pathway(s) and post-secondary goals are documented in their IEP Transition Plan and aligned HSBP.

IEP teams determine needed special education services, in conjunction with grade-level core instruction, to help students access a graduation pathway that is available to all students and aligns to the student's post-secondary goals. As part of the annual IEP review, IEP teams can revise the IEP and transition plan and provide additional supports to help students satisfy graduation requirements, make progress in their IEP goals, and demonstrate preparation for their post-high school plan.

IEP teams are not able to create new graduation pathways nor to waive graduation requirements for students receiving special education services. To support students with disabilities in meeting graduation requirements, IEP teams may utilize:

### *Comparable Content Course Substitutions*

State laws and rules in [RCW 28A.155.045](#) and [WAC 180-51-115](#) acknowledge the critical role of the IEP team in determining the most appropriate high school credit substitution and assessment options for students receiving special education services.

According to a January 2020 change to WAC 180-51-115<sup>3</sup>, "A student with an IEP must be provided needed accommodations to progress in the general curriculum toward meeting state and local graduation requirements. In **limited circumstances**, when **determined necessary by the IEP team** due to the unique needs resulting from the student's disability, a graduation credit and subject area requirement may be **substituted with comparable content course work**, as identified in the IEP team course of study and aligned to the student's HSBP."

- This WAC change applies to any course decisions made beginning July 1, 2020. See the [SBE's graduation requirements FAQ](#) (question #10) for details.

### *Continued Educational Support up to the Age of 21*

Students receiving special education services who have not yet met their high school graduation requirements and earned a high school diploma after four years are eligible for a free and appropriate public education through the school year in which they turn 21 years old. This includes students under 21 who have earned a high school equivalency certificate.

---

<sup>3</sup> [Special Education Guidance on WAC 180-51-115](#): Procedures for Granting High School Graduation Credits for Students with Special Education Needs, page 8.

[WAC 392-172A-02000](#) makes the distinction between meeting graduation requirements AND graduating with a diploma precisely because the IEP team is responsible for determining a student's graduation plan, including any needed transition services, and determining the anticipated graduation date.

Federal and state regulations do not require a school district to graduate a student with a disability who has met state and local graduation requirements. The IEP team determines what is in the best interest of the student for continuing their secondary education beyond completion of graduation requirements.

If the IEP team determines and documents that a student receiving special education services needs additional time to satisfy graduation requirements or needs additional special education services, the student is still entitled to a free appropriate public education and can continue to be claimed for basic and special education apportionment until the school year in which they turn 21.

See page 26 for additional information on the graduation ceremony participation options for students receiving continued services beyond their original graduation cohort year.

## **Statewide Assessment Alternative for Students Receiving Special Education Services for Students in the Class of 2021 and Earlier: Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA)**

House Bill 1599, which instituted expanded graduation pathways that all students can use to graduate, discontinued the option of using the CIA to demonstrate postsecondary preparation for the Class of 2022 and beyond.

This means that students in graduation cohorts of 2022 and beyond **DO NOT** have access to using the [Certificate of Individual Achievement \(CIA\)](#), which included the following options for the purposes of meeting a graduation pathway:

- Off-grade level assessments (Smarter Balanced OR WA-AIM)
- Level 2/Basic/CIA cut-scores
- Locally Determined Assessments
  - Woodcock Johnson Achievement Test, 3rd or 4th Edition; Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, 2nd or 3rd Edition; Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, 2nd or 3rd Edition; Grade Equivalencies
- Awareness Waivers (applied to high school students who participate in the WA-AIM through an engagement rubric)

Per [RCW 28A.655.250](#) and [WAC 180-51-230](#), all students, including those with disabilities, must satisfy a graduation pathway. Only students in the **Class of 2021 or earlier** who have an active IEP can still access the CIA statewide assessment pathway for ELA and/or math using any of the options listed above.

Prior to selecting the CIA for a student, IEP teams should consider the need for additional or increased special education services, in conjunction with grade level core instruction, to support the student in accessing a graduation pathway that is available to all students and aligns to the student's post-secondary goals.

**Note:** Available graduation pathway options are based on a student's original 4-year graduation cohort, not the year they may plan to graduate. Students needing additional time to graduate can access services until the age of 21 (see pages 27-29) but will be expected to meet the graduation requirements of their original graduation year.

## Partial Credit Practices to Support Highly Mobile Students

In 2017, the legislature passed SB 5241 and HB 1444, amending [RCW 28A.320.192](#). In 2021, the legislature passed [HB 1295](#), which also amended this RCW. These bills instituted a renewed effort to eliminate barriers and facilitate the on-time grade level progression and graduation of students experiencing certain challenges.

All of these bills **require districts to adopt credit consolidation, partial credit, and course waiving practices** to facilitate the on-time graduation of highly mobile students, including youth experiencing homelessness, students in Foster Care (dependent children), At-Risk Youth (ARY), Children in Need of Services (CHINS), and students who are in, or have been released from, an institutional education facility. [HB 1295](#) requires districts to award at least one credit for students who passed a GED test and who were in an institutional education setting.

The practices outlined in this legislation can help school counselors, registrars, and other record-keeping staff **piece together** mobile students' academic records in a more cohesive way. An [Implementation Guide](#) for supporting highly mobile students via partial credit practices is posted on OSPI's [Homeless Education website](#).

The 2017 and 2021 changes to RCW 28A.320.192 enable Washington school districts to be more fair, equitable and creative in transferring in partial credits in order to support progress toward graduation for our most highly mobile students. By using these strategies to show students we honor and value what they HAVE done, we increase the likelihood that they will see hope for reaching their goals and engage more readily in completing their remaining graduation requirements.

**Note: There is nothing in state or federal law that would prohibit a district from applying these practices to any student who needs additional support to meet his/her credit requirements, including students impacted by extended school closures during the COVID-19 public health crisis, or other circumstances resulting in partial credit for work completed.**

# High School Transcript Developer User Guides and FAQ Documents

The OSPI [High School Transcript](#) webpage was updated with documents that incorporated the changes outlined in the SBE's Emergency Waiver Program for the Class of 2022. Those same emergency waiver rules have been extended to the Class of 2023 (see section below on Graduation Requirement Waivers).

The following documents are available on OSPI's Transcripts webpage:

- [The High School Transcript Developer User Guide for Students with Graduation \(Spring 2022\)](#)
- [The High School Transcript Developer User Guide Special Edition \(July 2021\)](#).
- [High School Transcript FAQ 2021-22](#).
  - The Transcript FAQ includes updates and guidance for Graduation Emergency Waiver (GREW) transcription based on rules adopted in May 2022

## Transcribing High School Credit Earned in Middle School

Students who enroll in a high school credit-bearing course and pass the course, thus earning high school credit before attending high school, must have that credit *automatically* transcribed on their high school transcript. This policy change pertains to high school level courses completed in middle school beginning in the 2019–20 school year, as described in [WAC 180-51-030](#).

Students and their parent/guardian may also request that the credit earned before high school **not** be transcribed, or be transcribed with a **nonnumerical grade**, such as "pass". Nonnumerical grades are not included in the student's high school grade point average, but the course still applies to meeting high school graduation requirements.

- Students and their family have until the end of the 11th grade to **opt out** or **request a nonnumerical grade** for credit earned before attending high school.

OSPI recommends districts adopt a policy and procedure for consistently and efficiently administering this requirement, including the number of times students can opt out and back in, and how non-numerical grade requests will be administered.

## Graduation Requirement Waivers and Appeals

### Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver (GREW)

The State Board of Education (SBE) adopted permanent rules in July 2021 for an emergency waiver program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These rules apply to students graduating, during the 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023 school years. (Students graduating in the 2023-2024 school year will have access to a modified emergency waiver, which will not include a waiver of graduation pathway options.)



Under the emergency waiver program, districts/STECs may still apply to the SBE for authority to waive certain state graduation requirements for individual students in the Class of 2023 due to disruptions in the students' education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. If a district/STEC applied to the SBE for this authority for the Classes of 2021 or 2022, they do not need to apply again, nor do they need to approve another board resolution. (Further information about the waiver program including a list of districts authorized to administer the waiver is available on the [SBE Emergency Waiver Program webpage](#).)

Prior to granting a GREW, the district/STEC and/or school staff must:

- **Receive approval** from the SBE to administer the emergency waiver program.
- **Adopt a resolution** for the waiver program that includes processes for:
  - A review of decisions to decline a waiver that includes review by a panel including at least one school counselor and educators with specialized expertise, if appropriate.
  - A student's appeal of a decision to decline a waiver.
- Make a **good faith effort** to help the student meet all graduation requirements, such as providing summer school and other expanded learning opportunities, online learning options, course equivalencies and mastery-based credit options.
- **Use existing authority** to grant "individual student circumstances" waivers and other flexibilities to help the student meet specific credit requirements.
- Review the student's records and **identify how the student has demonstrated postsecondary preparation** for their next steps identified in the student's HSBP.
  - Options for demonstrating preparation may be determined locally, and examples are provided in rules.
  - See [WAC 180-111-020](#) for examples of postsecondary preparation.
- Ensure **eligible students receive guidance** to support them in determining if a GREW is actually needed.
  - Only credits that are least applicable or not integral to the preparation steps for the student's postsecondary plans can be waived.
  - Communicate the benefits and limitations of the waiver and the option to decline the GREW if offered.

Under this emergency waiver program, subject area credits and graduation pathway options may be waived for students who can still demonstrate postsecondary preparation. Up to 2.0 core or flexible subject area credits may be waived with a GREW, provided that:

- The student earns at least a total of 20 credits after all waivers and flexibilities are applied; and,
- The subject area core credits may not be in the same content area.

**Note:** The GREW is a last resort, limited to waiving only credit and graduation pathway requirements impacted by disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The HSBP may be considered "MET" once all required components and processes are completed (see pgs. 6-9 for more information).



## Equitable Administration, Records and Reporting

Districts must record and report on the use of the GREW, disaggregate GREW usage data by student groups, and take appropriate actions to ensure equitable administration of the GREW if disproportionality is found.

For each student who graduates by using a GREW, or in relation to overall GREW usage, districts must:

- Document in the individual student record (within their cumulative file, HSBP, transcript and/or student management system) the following:
  - School's good faith effort to help the student meet all graduation requirements,
  - Courses, term, and amount of credit(s) waived,
  - Whether all or part of the graduation pathway option was waived, and/or
  - How the student demonstrated postsecondary preparation.
- Report on each student's transcript:
  - Waived credit(s) using the GREW with a "V" code during the term waived.
    - Any other waived credits for 'student circumstances' or via a district's local authority are **not** posted to the transcript.
  - Graduation pathway = "WAIVED" or "MET", based on if a GREW was used (for one or both of the ELA and math pathways).
- Collect data on:
  - The number of waivers requested and not granted.
  - Demographics on waivers granted and not granted by student group to:
    - Use by the district in evaluating equitable administration of the waiver.
    - Report student-level data to OSPI via EDS/Graduation Alternatives.
- Report to SBE on:
  - Districtwide good faith efforts to help students meet graduation requirements.
  - Actions taken to ensure equity in administration of the GREW.

Districts may grant a GREW to students earning an IB diploma. Districts may also grant a waiver of the graduation pathway requirement only to students in later graduation cohorts, such as students in the Class of 2024, who plan on graduating early in the 2022-2023 school year. These current juniors must meet all state subject area credit requirements and local graduation requirements, subject to local policies, for their 2024 cohort year, and complete a HSBP (see pages 6-9).

**Note:** The Expedited Assessment Appeals (EAA) waiver is only available for students in the Classes of 2014-20 . The EAA waiver is not an option for the Classes of 2021-2023. Read OSPI's January 2020 Bulletin [#B007-20](#) for additional details about the reporting processes for the graduation pathways instituted after the EAA ended.

## Two-Credit Academic Waiver for “Individual Student Circumstances”

In 2019, local school boards should have adopted policies in line with [RCW 28A.230.090](#), which changed the criteria for which high school credits may be waived (up to two credits total). Prior to 2019, this credit waiver was based on “*unusual* circumstances;” it is now based on “a student’s circumstances.” The waiver for student circumstances allows individual student to graduate with 22 or 23 credits, rather than 24 credits. None of the waived credits can be any of the **17 mandatory ‘core’ credits**, as identified by the SBE. Waived credits may include electives or Personalized Pathway Requirements. See the infographic of required credits on the [SBE’s Graduation Requirements webpage](#) for more information.

## Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeal

For students in the Class of 2019 or earlier who transferred during their 12th grade year after the beginning of the second semester or February 15 (whichever is earlier), a Special, Unavoidable Circumstance Appeal application can be submitted for OSPI review. More information can be found on the [OSPI website](#).

## 11th and 12th Grade Transfer Students

### Out-of-State Transfer Waiver (Class of 2019 and earlier)

Students in the Class of 2019 or earlier who transferred into a Washington public school from another state or an in-state, non-public school setting after the administration of the statewide Smarter Balanced or WA-AIM assessments will still be eligible to access Graduation Alternatives. This waiver is also an option that should be considered to reduce the academic and emotional stress for students coming from military families. More information can be found on the [OSPI Military Children webpage](#).

## GRADUATION CEREMONIES

School districts, directed by their own school board policies, establish eligibility practices for determining who participates in graduation ceremonies.

### **The state has no authority over graduation ceremonies.**

Most school districts allow students to participate in graduation ceremonies only if they can demonstrate that they have fulfilled all graduation requirements prior to the ceremony. However, some districts do make exceptions on a case-by-case basis to minimize barriers faced by students in unique circumstances. Families should consult with their student’s high school and/or district about the graduation ceremony policy.

## Kevin's Law and Graduation

If determined appropriate by a student's IEP team, Kevin's Law ([RCW 28A.155.170](#)) allows students who will continue to receive special education services between the ages of 18 and 21 to participate in the graduation ceremony and activities after four years of high school attendance with their age-appropriate peers, even if all state and local graduation requirements are not yet met.

The law requires each school district to adopt a policy and develop procedures to determine which students can participate in graduation ceremonies after four years, even if they will remain in school beyond four years.

Students who participate in the graduation ceremony will receive a certificate of attendance, which is not a high school diploma. Students will receive a diploma when they complete their graduation requirements **AND** the IEP team has determined that no additional special education services, including transition services, are needed. The receipt of a diploma would end the student's eligibility for special education services.

## STUDENTS NEEDING MORE TIME TO GRADUATE

Students who have not yet met their high school graduation requirements nor earned a high school diploma after four years are eligible for a free public education through the school year in which they turn 21 years old. This includes students under 21 who have earned a high school equivalency certificate.

### Free Options

The free options available for students who are not graduating after four years of high school and want to meet their high school graduation requirements include:

1. **Stay enrolled in high school:** Through the school year in which they turn 21, all students are eligible to attend their resident high school and may have the option of transferring to another high school or alternative high school in the district or using the choice transfer process to enroll in another school district's high school.
2. **Continue Running Start (RS):** Students who participated in RS during their 11th and/or 12th grade years but did not finish all classes required for high school graduation may still be eligible to take RS courses that specifically meet any remaining high school graduation requirements and count toward a high school diploma. The expectation for students staying at the college to continue Running Start is that they are working toward their high school diploma, not solely toward an associate's degree or other certification.
3. **Enroll in a skill center:** Students may have the option of spending part or all of their school day at a local skill center. Skill centers that are also high schools may grant diplomas to seniors meeting the resident district's graduation requirements.

4. **Enroll in another school or program that's a better fit:** Many districts have an alternative, online, and/or credit recovery program to provide students a different setting in which to finish their high school education. Check with your school counselor and/or administrator for the options in your community. OSPI maintains a list of [approved statewide online public school programs](#).
5. **Enroll in an Open Doors Youth Reengagement Program:** Open Doors serves students who want a high school diploma, GED plus, community college credits toward their diploma, an industry certificate or associate's degree, and/or employability skills. This flexible education model is only available to students who are credit deficient and over 16 years old but not yet 21 as of September 1 of the school year. OSPI maintains a list of [districts that offer Open Doors](#).
6. **Enroll in a school district high school completion program:** School districts may contract with community colleges to offer tuition-free high school completion programs to students still enrolled in their resident school district (CEO programs). Upon completion of the program, students would receive a high school diploma from either the college or the district.

## At-Cost Options

The at-cost options available for students who are not yet graduating after four years of high school and still want to meet their high school graduation requirements include:

1. **Enroll in a community/technical college high school completion program:** Check first to see if the college offers either Open Doors or high school completion through a district partnership (CEO) for free.

All of Washington's community colleges offer high school completion programs, providing students with a high school diploma from the college. Students must withdraw from their resident high school to enroll in these programs. Students may be charged \$25 tuition and other applicable fees. Students 16–18 years of age must have a signed release from their resident school district to enroll.

2. **Pursue a high school equivalency certificate:** Check first to see if there is an Open Doors program to access GED preparation for free.

Students 16 and older who have chosen to leave high school may earn a high school equivalency certificate or GED by passing required tests through a high school completion program. Students under 19 will need a release to take the GED signed by their resident school district and a parent if under 18.

Our community and technical colleges are official GED testing centers. Students pay fees for the assessment(s) and may need to pay nominal tuition and fees for preparation courses. Students who earn a GED are considered dropouts for high school accountability purposes; however, students under 21 who have a GED are still eligible to fulfill their high school graduation requirements and earn a diploma.

3. **Enroll in a public two- or four-year college:** Washington’s public colleges do not require students to have a high school diploma in order to enroll, although a diploma significantly increases the chances of admission to the state’s four-year universities. Students without a diploma who enroll in colleges must pay full tuition and fees. Students who do not have a diploma or GED may not be eligible for certain federal, state, and private financial aid.



## SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT SCORES AND COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES’ PLACEMENT AGREEMENTS

Washington’s SBA in mathematics and English provides students a moment-in-time opportunity to evaluate their current skills and knowledge in relation to their educational goals and then determine what steps they should take to be prepared for college. Washington’s public four-year institutions believe there are multiple high- quality pathways to a degree and support early assessment efforts in high school that provide students and families with information to best guide them in their choices.

High school students who score a college-ready level of 3 or 4 on the SBA may enroll in college-level courses at Washington’s public community and technical colleges.

More information about the agreement is available from the [State Board of Community and Technical Colleges](#) (SBCTC).<sup>1</sup>

In January 2023 the community and technical college system will review the agreement language and impact-to-date and determine whether to amend and/or extend the current agreement.

---

<sup>1</sup> There is currently no placement agreement with the Council of Presidents (COP) and Washington’s public four-year colleges and universities

# APPENDIX

## APPENDIX A: RESOURCES

### High School and Beyond Plan Resources

Resource Description	Resource Link
OSPI's High School and Beyond page provides resources and information related to High School and Beyond plans and its required components.	<a href="#">OSPI High School and Beyond Plan Webpage</a>
Part of the <a href="#">OSPI-WSAC Graduation Webinar Series</a> , this webinar explored current practices and resources around HSBP implementation and engagement; Individualized Education Program (IEP) alignment; and provided resources to support HSBP Implementation.	<a href="#">High School and Beyond Planning: Strategies to Increase Student, Staff, Family, and Community Engagement</a>
This State Board of Education (SBE) resource details the requirements of a High School and Beyond Plan and provides HSBP implementation resources.	<a href="#">High School &amp; Beyond Plan Guidance</a>
This OSPI document answers frequently asked questions around the HSBP.	<a href="#">High School &amp; Beyond Plan FAQ</a>
The HSBP and the IEP both support a student's smooth transition from school to adult life. IEPs should be developed to align with HSBPs developed by students, so that a comprehensive plan is in place that addresses the student's needs and meets all federal, state, and local requirements.	<a href="#">Guidelines for Aligning High School and Beyond Plans and IEP Transition Plans</a>
The 12th Year Campaign boosts college and financial aid application rates in Washington by helping those working with high school seniors and their families complete applications for college admissions and financial aid. This page contains and information and resources designed to help schools and partners host a successful financial aid advising day.	<a href="#">WSAC 12<sup>th</sup> Year Campaign</a>
The College Bound Scholarship is an early commitment of state financial aid to eligible students who enroll in middle school and meet the pledge requirements. The College Bound Scholarship covers average tuition at public college rates, some fees, and a small book allowance at over 65 colleges, universities, and technical schools in Washington. This page contains information for students, families, counselors, and anyone interested in the College Bound Scholarship.	<a href="#">College Bound Scholarship Resources</a>

## Graduation Pathways Resources

Resource Description	Resource Link
This resource details the available options for students to complete the Graduation Pathway graduation requirement.	<a href="#">Graduation Pathways One-Pager</a>
Part of the <a href="#">OSPI-WSAC Graduation Webinar Series</a> , this webinar explored options for building new, or expanding on, existing Graduation Pathways; promising strategies and resources for career/college preparation; and provided resources & support around graduation pathways.	<a href="#">Graduation Pathways: Building Pathways to Careers and College That Serve All Students (PDF)</a>
Part of the <a href="#">OSPI-WSAC Graduation Webinar Series</a> , this webinar reviewed <a href="#">HB1599</a> (Multiple Pathways to Graduation); provided an overview of graduation pathways; explored graduation requirement changes; detailed implementation steps for graduation requirements and pathways; and provided resources & support around graduation pathways and requirements.	<a href="#">OSPI-WSAC Graduation Pathways 2020 webinar</a>

## Graduation and Credit Requirement Resources

Resource Description	Resource Link
OSPI's Graduation page provides resources and information related to WA State Graduation Requirements	<a href="#">OSPI Graduation Webpage</a>
SBE's website detailing Washington State Graduation Requirements.	<a href="#">State Board of Education (SBE) Graduation Requirements Webpage</a>
A helpful infographic from SBE providing a quick-look at WA State Graduation Requirements.	<a href="#">SBE Graduation Infographic</a>
ReadyWA provides resources that help students and families understand their educational journey, where their career pathway can take them, and the skills and knowledge they need to reach their goals.	<a href="#">ReadyWA</a>

## Dual Credit Resources

Resource Description	Resource Link
The OSPI Dual Credit Webpage has detailed information about all six dual credit programs.	<a href="#">OSPI Dual Credit Webpage</a>



## Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver (GREW) Resources

Resource Description	Resource Link
SBE's Emergency Waiver Program website provides details of the GREW, frequently asked questions, and resources pertaining to the waiver.	<a href="#">SBE Emergency Waiver Webpage</a>
This State Board of Education (SBE) resource answers frequently asked questions pertaining to the GREW.	<a href="#">SBE Emergency Waiver FAQs</a>
This State Board of Education (SBE) resource provides details and requirements for issuing the GREW Waiver	<a href="#">Waiver Quick Info (one-pager)</a>
In the Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver presentation, OSPI and SBE staff cover a variety of graduation requirement flexibility options for the Class of 2023, including the continued availability of a GREW	<a href="#">OSPI Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver presentation (webinar)</a>

## Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) Resources

Resource Description	Resource Link
The OSPI Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) Webpage has information related to offering ALE, including a guide to program implementation, sample documents and communication resources.	<a href="#">OSPI ALE Webpage</a>

## Online Learning Resources

Resource Description	Resource Link
Find information on OSPI's Online Learning webpage about approved online school programs, enrolling students, and district applications for online school programs or course providers.	<a href="#">OSPI Online Learning Webpage</a>

## Learning by Choice Resources

Resource Description	Resource Link
OSPI's Learning by Choice webpage provides answers to commonly asked questions about the Learning by Choice law.	<a href="#">OSPI Learning by Choice Webpage</a>



## Resources for Students in Foster Care/Experiencing Homelessness

Resource Description	Resource Link
OSPI's Postsecondary Education website provides information related to supporting students in foster care in their journey toward postsecondary education.	<a href="#">OSPI Foster Care Postsecondary Education website</a>
The Foster Care Transition toolkit includes tips and resources intended to help foster youth access and navigate social, emotional, educational and skills barriers as they transition into adulthood.	<a href="#">Foster Care Transition Toolkit</a>
The Supplemental Education Transition Planning Program webpage has information on the Supplemental Education Transition Planning (SETuP) program, which assists students in foster care and unaccompanied students experiencing homeless in making the transition from high school to postsecondary enrollment, career or service.	<a href="#">Supplemental Education Transition Planning (SETuP) Program Webpage</a>  Additional SETuP information can be found at the <a href="#">Independence for Washington State Foster Youth website</a> .
Treehouse is a statewide nonprofit that provides a range of education planning, monitoring, support services and resources for students in foster care.	<a href="#">Treehouse website</a>
Students in foster care are eligible for the Treehouse Graduation Success Program, which provides supports and services tailored to a youth's individual developmental needs.	Treehouse <a href="#">Graduation Success Program website</a>
The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth has a collection of higher education resources for students experiencing homelessness.	<a href="#">National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth website</a>

## APPENDIX B: ABBREVIATIONS

**ALE:** Alternative Learning Experience (see [WAC 392-550](#))

**AP:** Advanced Placement

**BTC:** Bridge to College

**CBS:** College Bound Scholarship

**CHS:** College in the High School

**CI:** Cambridge International

**CIA:** Certificate of Individual Achievement

**COP:** Council of Presidents (representing Washington’s public 4-year institutions)

**CTE:** Career and Technical Education

**ELA:** English Language Arts

**FAAD:** Financial Aid Advising Day (new requirement begun in fall 2020)

**FAFSA:** Free Application for Federal Student Aid

**GREW:** Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver (Classes of 2020 – 2024)

**HSBP:** High School and Beyond Plan

**IB:** International Baccalaureate

**IEP:** Individualized Education Program

**PPR:** Personalized Pathway Requirement (3.0 flexible credits; World Language/Fine Art)

**RS:** Running Start

**SBA:** Smarter Balanced Assessment

**SBCTC:** State Board of Community and Technical Colleges

**SBE:** State Board of Education

**STEC:** State Tribal Education Compact (related to CTE Directors)

**WA-AIM:** Washington Access to Instruction & Measurement (state assessment alternate assessment based on alternate academic achievement standards)

**WASFA:** Washington Application for Student Financial Aid

- (Go to <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa> for more information)

**WSAC:** Washington Student Achievement Council

# REVISION LOG

Updates to the Graduation Toolkit following policy changes in House Bill 1599 (2019) generated a transition to a Graduation Pathways Toolkit in August 2019. For the Class of 2023, the “Pathways” was removed to signify the toolkit’s comprehensive focus on all things related to Graduation.

Any **substantive** changes are noted below.

Page(s) Revised	Section	Description	Date
30-33	Appendix A	Added new resources related to information in the toolkit	8/31/22
16-17	Graduation Pathways	CTE Sequences in ALE settings	8/21/2021
20		Information about sunseting of CIA	
21		Earning a Seal of Biliteracy	
24-26	Meeting State and Local Credit Requirements	NEW section ~ Flexibility in Meeting Graduation Requirements for Unique Student Populations	8/21/2021
27		Links to new Transcript FAQ and UserGuide	
28-30	Waivers and Appeals	NEW section ~ Graduation Requirement Emergency Waiver (GREW)	
Most	Throughout all	At least minimal updates to most sections throughout entire document	9/8/2020
Most	Throughout all	Updated most sections with final SBE rules and updated guidance/resources	2/28/2020
All	Entire document	Updated entire document, with new legislation, format	8/20/2019

# LEGAL NOTICE



Except where otherwise noted, this work by the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution License](#).

Alternate material licenses with different levels of user permission are clearly indicated next to the specific content in the materials.

This resource may contain links to websites operated by third parties. These links are provided for your convenience only and do not constitute or imply any endorsement or monitoring by OSPI.

If this work is adapted, note the substantive changes and re-title, removing any Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction logos. Provide the following attribution:

This resource was adapted from original materials provided by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Original materials may be accessed at <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/graduation-requirements/graduation-pathways/graduation-pathways-toolkit>.

Please make sure that permission has been received to use all elements of this publication (images, charts, text, etc.) that are not created by OSPI staff, grantees, or contractors. This permission should be displayed as an attribution statement in the manner specified by the copyright holder. It should be made clear that the element is one of the "except where otherwise noted" exceptions to the OSPI open license.

For additional information, please visit the [OSPI Interactive Copyright and Licensing Guide](#).

OSPI provides equal access to all programs and services without discrimination based on sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Questions and complaints of alleged discrimination should be directed to the Equity and Civil Rights Director at 360-725-6162 or P.O. Box 47200 Olympia, WA 98504-7200.

Download this material in PDF at [Graduation Pathways Toolkit webpage](https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/graduation-requirements/graduation-pathways/graduation-pathways-toolkit) (<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/graduation-requirements/graduation-pathways/graduation-pathways-toolkit>). This material is available in alternative format upon request. Contact the Resource Center at 888-595-3276, TTY 360-664-3631.