

WAIVER OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CREDITS & NON-CREDIT REQUIREMENT

The board seeks to provide flexibility for students who face unique circumstances that hinder their ability to meet the state's standard graduation credit requirements. These waiver options ensure that students who have experienced significant disruptions to their education, including but not limited to health challenges, family crises, homelessness, or other extraordinary situations, are given an equitable opportunity to earn a high school diploma.

By allowing eligible students to waive specific credit requirements while maintaining the integrity of the diploma, this policy upholds Washington State's commitment to educational equity and student success. The waiver process is designed to be student-centered, considering individual needs while ensuring that students acquire essential skills and knowledge necessary for post-secondary education, career readiness, and civic engagement.

I. Waiver of Elective credits

The board seeks to provide all students with the opportunity to complete graduation requirements without discrimination and without disparate impact on groups of students. In so doing, the board acknowledges that circumstances may arise that prevent a student from earning the required credits per graduating year. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Homelessness;
- A health condition resulting in an inability to attend class;
- Limited English proficiency;
- Disability, regardless of whether the student has an individualized education program or a plan under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973;
- Denial of an opportunity to retake classes or enroll in remedial classes free of charge during the first four years of high school;
- Transfer during the last two years of high school from a school with different graduation requirements; and
- In or have been released from an institutional education facility; and
- Other circumstances (e.g., emergency, natural disaster, trauma, personal or family crisis) that directly compromised a student's ability to learn.

The board delegates to the superintendent or his/her designee discretion to grant a waiver of a maximum of two elective credits required for graduation. A student's parent/guardian or an adult student must file the Mount Vernon School District's district's Application for Waiver of High School Graduation Credits (Form 2418F) with the superintendent's office no later than thirty days prior to the student's scheduled graduation date. In order to graduate, students granted a waiver must earn seventeen required subject credits (four English, three Math, three Science, three Social Studies,

two Health and Fitness, one Arts, one Career and Technical Education) which may be by satisfactory demonstration of competence as provided by WAC 180-51-050 and core subjects per WAC 180-51-210.

II. Waiver of Washington State History Non-Credit Requirement

Washington State allows the non-credit bearing requirement to take Washington State History to be waived for the following reasons:

- Students in 11th or 12th grade and who have not completed a course of study in Washington State History and Government because of previous residence outside the state, and
- Students who have successfully completed a state history and government course of study in another state. Whether such a course was completed is based on interpretation of the student's transcript, which is based on local policy for interpreting transcripts from other states.

Washington State History waivers may be requested beginning in the second semester of a student's senior year and must be requested using the District's universal waiver process (2418F).

The superintendent or designee's decision is final and will only apply to the student's current graduation year. A student who does not receive a waiver, or receives only a partial waiver, and does not graduate may reapply for a waiver the following year if the student remains enrolled.

Cross References:

2410 - High School Graduation Requirements

Legal References:

RCW 28A.230.090 High school graduation requirements or equivalencies—High school and beyond plans—Career and college ready graduation requirements and waivers—Reevaluation of graduation requirements—Language requirements—Credit for courses taken before attending high school—Postsecondary credit equivalencies

RCW 28A.345.080 Model policy and procedure for granting waivers of credit for high school graduation.

WAC 180-51-068 State subject and credit requirements for high school graduation—Students entering the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2015.

WAC 180-51-050 High school credit—Definition