

Port Angeles School District
High School Graduation Requirements
[Policy 2410](#)

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. The requirement for graduation shall be the completion of work and studies representing the instructional program assigned to grades 9-12. The minimum requirements for graduation (effective with the Class of 2008) shall include:

- English – 3.5 credits, with no more than 1.0 credit in production courses
- Math – 2.0 credits, which will include algebra and geometry
- Science – 2.0 credits
- Social Studies – 3.0 credits, includes 1.0 in U.S. History, 1.0 in contemporary Issues, 0.5 in Washington State History (replaced with World Cultures/Geography beginning with the class of 2006) and 0.5 credit in social science elective.
- Health and Fitness – 2.0 credits
- Visual/Performing Arts – 1.0 credit
- Occupational Education – 1.0 credit
- Electives – 8.0 credits

TOTAL = 22.5 credits

A credit is defined as 150 hours of planned instructional activities excluding passing time. A Carnegie unit (180 50-minute hours) is required unless a waiver process has occurred. No student may earn more than one credit/year to satisfy the state board requirements in English, Mathematics and Science except as provided in RCW 28A.230.100. The board shall approve additional graduation requirements as recommended by the superintendent.

In addition to the minimum credit requirements, each student must:

1. Complete a high school education plan;
2. Complete a culminating project (which will include a technology component);
3. Earn a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual achievement; and
4. Complete portfolio requirement is in place beginning with Class of 2002 and ending with the class of 2006.

The superintendent shall develop procedures for implementing this policy which include:

1. Establishment of the process and assessment criteria for the high school culminating project requirements; and determination of the education plan process for identifying competencies;
2. Recommending course and credit requirements which satisfy the state board of education requirements and recognize the expectations of the citizens of the district;

3. Determining which courses satisfy particular subject area requirements and whether a particular course may satisfy more than one subject area requirement including a process for determining the credits the district will recognize for courses taken through another program recognized by the state (another public school district, an approved private school) or those courses taken by students moving into the state from another state or country. Decisions regarding the recognition of credits earned before enrolling in the district will be based on the professional judgment of the high school principal or designee based on an evaluation of the student's former program and demonstrated knowledge and skills in the discipline for which credit is sought. The decision of the principal may be appealed to the superintendent within fifteen school days;
4. Making graduation requirements available in writing to students, parents or guardians, and members of the public;
5. Providing for a waiver of graduation requirements for an individual student except for U.S. History and Washington State History (grades 9-11 students);
6. Granting credit for learning experiences conducted away from school;
7. Granting credit for correspondence and/or college courses;
8. Granting credit for work experience;
9. 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;
10. Counseling of students to know what is expected of them for completion of their schooling;
11. Preparing a list of all graduating students for the information of the board and release to the public;
12. Preparing suitable diplomas for graduating seniors;
13. Planning and executing graduation ceremonies; and
14. Developing student learning plans for students who are not successful on one or more components of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).

The district may adopt additional requirements consistent with the constitutional and statutory rights of students and shall be supported by a written rationale which is available to students, parents or guardians, and the public upon request and which demonstrates that:

1. The quality of life of the individual students will be substantially enhanced; and
2. The probable success of the district's high school students, as a whole, in post-high school education will be substantially enhanced; or,
3. The probable success of the district's high school students, as a whole, in obtaining employment will be substantially enhanced; or,
4. The health, safety and welfare of the individual students will be substantially enhanced.

In the event minimum competency requirements are established, 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 in to 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. In lieu of the certificate of academic achievement, special education students may earn a certificate of individual achievement. A student shall also be advised that he/she may receive a final transcript.

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 or guardians shall have the right to an appeal using the same process as used for short-term suspension as defined in Policy 3241, Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishments. When damages are in excess of \$100, the appeal process for long term suspension as defined in Policy 3241, Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishments shall apply.

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

In the event that 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. The student and his/her parents or guardians shall be notified regarding the nature of the violation or damage, how restitution may be made, and how and appeal may be instituted.

Visit the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\) website](#) for up-to-date information about the Math and WASL Graduation requirements.

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