

Equivalency Credit Opportunities

I. Experiential Education Opportunities

The district may grant credit, including high school graduation credit, for school planned or approved learning experiences which may be conducted away from the facilities owned, operated, or supervised by the district or conducted primarily by individuals not employed by the district. To grant credit for such experiences, a proposal for approval of credit must be submitted to the district's designated team.

The proposal shall include the following elements:

- (a) Name of program or planned learning experience;
- (b) Length of time for which approval is desired;
- (c) Objectives of the program or planned learning experience;
- (d) Which one or more of the state learning goals and related essential academic learning requirements are part of the program or planned learning experience;
- (e) Description of how credits shall be determined (completion of a district-defined course or satisfactory demonstration of proficiency/mastery in the related state learning standards in accord with WAC 180-51-050(1)) and WAC 180-51-051;
- (f) Content outline of the program and/or major learning activities and instructional materials to be used;
- (g) Description of how student performance will be assessed;
- (h) Qualifications of instructional personnel;
- (i) Plans for evaluation of program; and
- (j) How and by whom the student will be supervised.

Approved experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following: School planned or approved learning experiences such as travel study, work study, private lessons, and education programs sponsored by governmental agencies.

II. Career and Technical Education Courses Provided by the District

Until September 1, 2021, the district will offer high school students with the opportunity to access at least one career and technical education course that is considered a statewide equivalency course as determined by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

On or after September 1, 2021, any statewide equivalency course offered by the district or accessed at a skill center will be offered for academic credit.

The district may also adopt local course equivalencies for career and technical education courses that are not on the list of courses approved by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

Each high school will adopt core academic course equivalencies for high school career and technical courses, provided that the career and technical course has been reviewed and approved for equivalency credit by a district team appointed by the superintendent or a designee.

The district team will include a school administrator, the career and technical administrator, an instructor from the core academic subject area, an instructor from the appropriate career and technical course, a school counselor, and a representative from the curriculum department.

Career and technical courses approved for equivalency will be:

1. Aligned with the state's essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations; and
2. Aligned with current industry standards, as evidenced in the curriculum frameworks. The local career and technical advisory committee will certify that courses meet industry standards.
3. Recorded on the student's transcripts as the academic course the equivalence credit fulfills.

III. Mastery/Competency-based credits

Students may obtain mastery-based credit for approved classes (content areas) by passing a district-created assessment that is aligned to state learning standards and course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the superintendent of public instruction (OSPI). Students do not need to have attempted and failed a course before being eligible for these options. Approval is obtained through the high school principal or designee. Options for district created assessments are currently under development, but may include:

- Locally created written or oral test;
- Written report by the student;
- Student-designed portfolio of work;
- Student presentation or oral defense of their learning in the course;
- Hands-on demonstration of knowledge and skills;
- A combination of assessment approaches, as defined by the district; or
- or other locally developed methods

Successful completion of next higher-level course: Credit may be awarded for a course when the student successfully completes the next higher-level course in a sequence that includes a natural progression of the state learning standards from the previous course. State or locally determined learning standards will be used as the guide when making decisions regarding what courses should qualify.

Mastery-based credit may be available in approved classes (not yet established) if the student achieves a C or higher grade in the next-higher level course.

The mastery/competency examination must be offered in a proctored setting with appropriate technology. The district will approve the site(s) where the examination is offered, which could include individual schools, district buildings, community colleges, universities, education service districts, or other community settings. A student may take the examination one of time. The district will award credit based on the highest examination score.

The student will be responsible for the cost of taking a mastery/competency examination. The district will offer financial assistance to students who demonstrate need, such as

qualifying for free or reduced lunch. The district may pay for the cost of taking the examination for all students if it chooses.

The district will receive official test results for each student who takes a mastery/competency examination. The district will provide a letter to the student with a copy of the test results and an indication of how many credits the student will be awarded. Credits awarded will be recorded on the student's transcript with a grade of "Pass."

To ensure cultural responsiveness and equity in awarding mastery-based credit, the district will collect and annually review disaggregated data to see which subgroups of students are receiving mastery-based credit. If disproportionality is found, the district will take appropriate actions to ensure equitable access to these crediting opportunities.

Courses taken before attending high school

The district will award high school credit for computer science courses taken before attending high school if either of the following occurs:

1. The course was taken with high school students, if the academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing the same course requirements and examinations as the high school students enrolled in the class; or
2. The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high school credit because the course is similar or equivalent to a course offered at a high school in the district determined by the board.

Students who have taken and successfully completed high school courses under the circumstances above shall not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive credit.

IV. Computer Science Courses

AP courses

The board will approve Advanced Placement (AP) computer science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science, and may be used by a student to meet math or science graduation requirements. The superintendent or designee will adopt procedures to denote on the student's transcript that AP computer science qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who complete it in their senior year.

Mastery/Competency-based credits

The district may award academic credit for computer science to students based on student completion of a mastery/competency examination that is aligned with the state learning standards for computer science or mathematics and course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the superintendent of public instruction (OSPI).

To receive mastery/competency-based credits for computer science, a student must take a mastery/competency examination that OSPI has found aligns with the state learning standards for computer science or mathematics and that aligns with course equivalency requirements adopted by OSPI. The number of credits awarded will be based on the student's performance on the mastery/competency examination.

Cross References: 2170 - Career and Technical Education
 2410 - High School Graduation Requirements

Legal References: Laws of 2019, ch. 180, 2 High school computer science
 courses—Availability—Competency testing
 RCW 28A.230.010 Course content requirements—Access to
 career and technical course equivalencies—Duties of school
 boards of directors—Waivers
 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
 WAC 180-51 High school graduation requirements
 WAC 392-410 Courses of study and equivalencies

Management Resources: 2021 – February Issue
 2020 – December Issue
 2019 - July Policy Issue
 2018 - May Policy Issue
 2013 - September Issue
 Policy News, August 2006 Legislature Codifies Course
 Equivalency for Career and Technical Courses

Revised Dates: **02.21**