

A Third Math Credit for High School Graduation

Strong Math Education Prepares Students to Succeed No Matter What Path They Choose

Washington State Board of Education (SBE) is working to create a meaningful high school diploma to provide all students the opportunity to succeed in postsecondary education, the 21st century world of work and citizenship, no matter what path they choose.

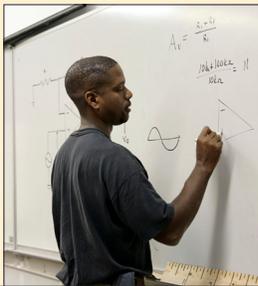
SBE heard from hundreds of people including: many of Washington's employers, trades, community and technical colleges, universities, community leaders, legislators, the Governor, and parents, who have all called for students to graduate from high school with a stronger math education.

Currently, students must complete two credits of high school level math (Algebra I and Geometry or Integrated I and II). SBE adopted a rule that, beginning with the class of 2013, students will be required to take a third credit of math, Algebra II* or election of a math credit tailored to their career path, in order to graduate. All math credits may be satisfied through equivalent career and technical education math courses.

Quick Fact:
39 states currently require or will require students to complete three credits or more of math in order to graduate.

There are several paths to complete this credit that fit students' interests and prepares them for success for any career they may choose, including:

A traditional Algebra II course.



If students have a defined career path, they will have the opportunity to substitute another high school math course for Algebra II, but must obtain parent/guardian and high school approval.



A career and technical education (CTE) course equivalent to Algebra II.



Why Algebra II is important

Algebra II is a gateway that prepares students for success.

Students who have taken Algebra II and another math course in high school are the ones most likely to place into a credit bearing mathematics course in a community, technical, or four-year college or university. In fact, four-year schools require at least Algebra II for entrance.

Algebra II example:

If you need \$15,000 in 4 years to start college, how much money would you need to invest now? Assume an interest rate of 4% compounded monthly for 48 months.

Today's students deserve action – not delays.

SBE understands that state policy changes impact local schools and districts. We are committed to working with all our partners to secure the tools and resources needed to improve math education and provide support for all students. If we want our children to succeed, we have to prepare them TODAY for the demands of the workplace, postsecondary education and citizenship.

SBE is working with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Professional Educator Standards Board, school districts, and other partners to improve math standards, curricula, teacher recruitment, development and certification, and math assessment tools.



Washington State Board of Education
www.sbe.wa.gov

*Students receiving services through special education will meet graduation requirements as determined by their Individualized Education Program (IEP) team and defined in their IEP.