

Culminating Project FAQ

Updated December 2012

1. What is the role of the State Board of Education (SBE) in the Culminating Project?
2. What is the Culminating Project?
3. What are the Culminating Project guidelines?
4. What changes is SBE considering to the Culminating Project?

1. What is the role of the State Board of Education (SBE) in the Culminating Project?

SBE established the Culminating Project as a graduation requirement in 2000. The requirement is effective for students in the graduating class of 2008 and beyond, through [WAC 180-51-061](#), [WAC 180-51-066](#), and [WAC 180-51-067](#).

2. What is the Culminating Project?

Basic content knowledge is tested through the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE), End-of-Course Exams, Classroom Based Assessments (CBA), and various alternative assessments that address Washington's Basic Education learning goals one and two. This experiential, hands-on project gives students a formal opportunity to demonstrate in a variety of ways their learning competencies related to Washington's Basic Education learning goals three and four ([RCW 28A.150.210](#)):

Goal 3: Think analytically, logically and creatively, and integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems.

Goal 4: Understand the importance of work and how performance, effort and decisions directly affect future career and educational opportunities.

3. What are the Culminating Project guidelines?

Students have the flexibility to construct Culminating Projects that demonstrate essential skills through reading, writing, speaking, production, and/or performance; skills of analysis, logic and creativity; and the integration of experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments and solve problems. School districts should clearly identify Culminating Project student outcomes and develop and publish assessment criteria to support those outcomes. Each district should have a Culminating Project management system designed to support the students and staff. Districts should also have policies in place to handle special circumstances, such as district transfers, parental challenges to the project, etc.

Districts may opt to include the community in project planning, support, or feedback. There is no state-level prohibition against doing joint projects of two or more students. School districts shall ensure the safety of each student by complying with legal and risk management guidelines

4. What changes is SBE considering to the Culminating Project?

SBE may consider changes to the Culminating Project. One proposal is to require the Culminating Project to include a portfolio, a presentation, and a product. The project may also include a research or reflective paper, community service, job shadowing, internship, or other components deemed appropriate by the district.

SBE may also propose that the project demonstrate one or more examples of students' skills in each of the following categories:

- Learning and innovation skills (creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving, communication and collaboration).
- Information, media, and technology skills.
- Life and career skills (flexibility and adaptability, initiative and self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, productivity and accountability, financial literacy, leadership and responsibility, perseverance).

No action has been taken on these proposals.

For more information on Culminating/Senior Projects, contact us at: sbe@k12.wa.us.