



# THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Governance | Accountability | Achievement | Oversight | Career & College Readiness

## APPLICATION

### Temporary Waiver from High School Graduation Requirements Under Chapter 217, Laws of 2014

#### Instructions

RCW 28A.230.090(1)(d)(ii) authorizes school districts to apply to the State Board of Education (SBE) for a temporary waiver from the career and college ready graduation requirements directed by Chapter 217, Laws of 2104 (E2SSB 6552) beginning with the graduating class of 2020 or 2021 instead of the graduating class of 2019. This law further provides:

**In the application, a school district must describe why the waiver is being requested, the specific impediments preventing timely implementation, and efforts that will be taken to achieve implementation with the graduating class proposed under the waiver. The state board of education shall grant a waiver under this subsection (1)(d) to an applying school district at the next subsequent meeting of the board after receiving an application.**

The SBE has adopted rules to implement this provision as WAC 180-51-068(11). The rules provide that the SBE must post an application form on its public web site for use by school districts. The rules further provide:

- The application must be accompanied by a resolution adopted by the district's board of directors requesting the waiver. The resolution must, at a minimum:
  1. State the entering freshman class or classes for whom the waiver is requested;
  2. Be signed by the chair or president of the board of directors and the district superintendent.
- A district implementing a waiver granted by the SBE under this law will continue to be subject to the prior high school graduation requirements as specified in WAC 180-51-067 during the school year or years for which the waiver has been granted.
- A district granted a waiver under this law that elects to implement the career and college ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068 during the period for which the waiver is granted shall provide notification of that decision to the SBE.

For questions or assistance with this application, please contact:

Jack Archer  
Director, Basic Education Oversight  
State Board of Education  
360-725-6035  
[jack.archer@k12.wa.us](mailto:jack.archer@k12.wa.us)

Linda Drake  
Research Director  
State Board of Education  
360-725-6028  
[linda.drake@k12.wa.us](mailto:linda.drake@k12.wa.us)

## Application

Please complete in full. Please identify any attachments provided by reference to the numbered items below.

1. Name of district: Bethel School District

2. Contact information

Name and title: Dr. Ann Varkados, Assistant Superintendent Teaching & Learning

Telephone: 253-683-6017

E-mail address: avarkados@bethelsd.org

3. Date of application: 12/10/2014

4. Please explain why the district is requesting a waiver to delay implementation of career and college ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068.

Bethel School District is requesting a waiver to delay implementation of career and college ready graduation requirements in WAC 180-51-068 for the classes of 2019 and 2020. We are requesting the waiver for the following reasons:

\* Our district needs extra time to implement and refine systems to meet the new 24 credit requirements. This year, we reported an all-time high for our district graduation rate. We would like to maintain this positive trajectory. This additional time would allow students to effectively transition, without penalty, and assure systems are in place to support students path to graduation.

\* Delaying the implementation of new career and college ready graduation requirements allows further time to provide necessary professional development for counseling staff. Our staff needs to have an in-depth understanding of 24-credit college and career ready graduation requirements, as well as time to design and incorporate systems of support.

\* Bethel School District is currently implementing a digital initiative that will greatly enhance student learning and instructional practices. These changes require substantial planning, testing of systems and professional development. By adding time to meet increased graduation requirements, both the 24-credit graduation requirements and the digital learning initiatives will be allowed time for quality implementation.

\* Most importantly, the additional time allows us to develop a comprehensive communication plan to better communicate the new graduation requirements. Parents and students must understand the rationale and need for this initiative and how High School and Beyond plans will be developed. Bethel covers over 200 square miles and has no media presence, which makes communication an added challenge. By developing a strategic communications plan, we can better ensure that our families and staff are prepared for these changes and that all students are supported towards the new graduation requirements.

\* Delay in implementation allows for normal attrition or reassignment of teachers within the district.

5. Please describe the specific impediments preventing implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2019.

The impediments that prevent successful implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements are:

\* Our current academic supports and counseling systems are structured to meet the existing 22.5 credit graduation requirement. Our district's challenge with on-time graduation is credit deficiencies. Additional time will allow for more comprehensive planning and implementing supports.

\* We are in the process of developing and refining student progress monitoring systems to assist future students in capturing the 24-credits.

\* We have not had time to adequately communicate to parents, students, and our community about how our district plans to meet the new 24-credit graduation requirement. This is a major change and students will no longer have room to fail, without serious consequences. Students and parents need to have a clear understanding of the options available under the career and college ready graduation requirements.

We will need additional time (2 years) to resolve these impediments and to communicate to parents, students and community. Additionally, we need further time to test and implement systems to ensure student success.

6. Please indicate below the graduating class for which the district will first implement the career and college ready graduation requirements.

Class of 2020

Class of 2021

7. Please describe the efforts that will be undertaken to achieve implementation of the career and college ready graduation requirements for the graduating class indicated above.

\* Develop and initiate a comprehensive communication plan for students, parents, staff, and community. Implement strategies to communicate to a broad-based audience to aid in the understanding of changing expectations resulting from these new requirements.

\* Develop and implement a professional development plan for counselors and teaching staff. Deepen the understanding of student options and requirements.

\* Prepare students to reach for the 24 credit college and career ready graduation requirements.

\* Develop a plan for early identification of struggling students. Provide additional student supports for academic success and credit retrieval.

**Final step**

Bethel Public Schools  
**RESOLUTION 10 (14-15)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 403, SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION TO THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR A TEMPORARY WAIVER FROM THE CORE 24 COLLEGE AND CAREER READY GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature codified into law the passage of E2SSB 6552 increasing graduation requirements to Core 24 college and career ready; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 28A. 230.090(1)(d)(ii) the state board of education has been authorized to grant school districts an opportunity to apply for a temporary waiver from the Core 24 career and college ready graduation requirements beginning with the graduation classes 2019 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, the district is seeking additional time to plan and communicate the changes in requirements; and

WHEREAS, by building a deeper understanding of options and requirements students will experience greater success; and

WHEREAS, the district is seeking more time to ensure systems are in place to best support students in meeting new requirements; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we support the application of a state board of education Core 24 career and college ready graduation requirements waiver;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bethel School District Board of Directors hereby requests the approval of the Temporary Waiver from Core 24 college and career ready graduation requirements.

The foregoing resolution was adopted in open, public session at a regular meeting of the board of directors of Bethel School District held this 9th day of December, 2014, the following members present and voting:

Board of Directors:



*Brenda L. Rogers*  
Brenda L. Rogers, President

*Stanley E. Chapin*  
Stanley E. Chapin, Vice President

*John L. Manning*  
John L. Manning, Director

*Amy Pivetta Hoffman*  
Amy Pivetta Hoffman, Director

*Warren T. Smith, Sr.*  
Warren T. Smith, Sr., Director

ATTEST:

*Thomas G. Seigel*  
Thomas G. Seigel  
Secretary to the Board