

**STANWOOD-CAMANO SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
RESOLUTION NO. 2014/15-002
REQUESTING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS WAIVER of CORE 24**

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of the Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401, Snohomish and Island Counties State of Washington, requesting a graduation credit waiver from the Washington State Board of Education allowing the district to maintain a 22.5 credit graduation requirement for the graduating classes of 2019 and 2020;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education is directing districts to implement additional graduation requirements as per the legislative directive in 2010 and revised in 2014 known as CORE 24; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401 has researched the implications of the additional credit requirements and believes there will be a significant negative impact on the district financially and logistically if the graduation requirements are increased to 24 credits in the next two years for the classes of 2019 and 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401, that the Stanwood-Camano School District is requesting a graduation requirement waiver of the 24 credits for the graduating classes of 2019 and 2020 allowing the district to maintain the graduation requirement of 22.5 credits for these classes;

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401, Snohomish and Island Counties, Washington, at the regular meeting thereof held this 16th day of December 2014.

STANWOOD-CAMANO SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401

By _____
President

Jolie Dean

Vice-President

Barlene Hartley

Albert R. Smith

Roger W. [Signature]

ATTEST:

Jean Shumate

Jean Shumate, Ed.D, Board Secretary

Application

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

1. Name of district: Stanwood-Camano

2. Contact information

Name and title: Dr. Lloy Schaaf

Telephone: 360-6291237

E-mail address: lschaaf@stanwood.wednet.edu

3. Date of application: 12/17/2014

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.

The Stanwood-Camano School District is requesting a two- year waiver to delay implementation of the 24 credit requirement for several reasons. Both high schools within the district (Stanwood High School and Lincoln Hill High School) require 22.5 credits for students to graduate. Adding 1.5 credits to the graduation requirements for both schools would mean the addition of several sections to the master schedule, along with the need for additional staff and classrooms. Currently, both schools operate with a 6-period day. With the addition of 1.5 credits, the two schools would need to change their schedules. Leadership teams at both schools need time to research different school schedules. The potential changes to the schedule might mean a change to the start and ending times of the high school day. This will impact not only the high school, but transportation, food serves, teacher contacts, and activities and athletics. Parent and student schedules will also be impacted. In order to facilitate the changes, additional resources and funding will be required. We would have to potentially let some teachers go in order to hire teachers in specific endorsement areas to satisfy the new requirements.

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

The new requirements would add 16 sections for Stanwood High School and at least 4 sections for Lincoln Hill High School (alternative high school). The addition of 20 sections to the schools' master schedus would mean hiring an additional four teachers and the need for four more classrooms. Adding science sections to the schedules would require us to hire additional science teachers in an endorsement area where we already have struggled the last few years to find qualified science teachers. We also have several science teachers who will be retiring soon. We have open classrooms at Stanwood High School, but they are not equipped with the proper equipment for lab science courses. There is the possibility to have science teachers rotate rooms throughout the day, but this makes lab preparation very difficult and is not best practice. In addition to the 1.0 science credit, we would also need to add a .5 credit within our master schedules in order to respond to the personalized pathway requirements.

Additional complicating factors include that as a district, we are preparing to run a bond in 2017 for a new high school. We do not know at this time what the new building will look like or how we might restructure both highschools' master schedules. Of course we will move toward implementing CORE 24 in this planning work, but it needs to be completed thoughtfully and carefully with involvement of our stakeholders.

It also appears that Initiative 1351 will further complicate the need for additional staffing and funding resources without clear implications of exact impact right now.

We have looked at many ways to mitigate the implementation of additional graduation required credits as we have considered the impact of CTE equivant credits which we currentny have and are considering additional work and support in this area as the state completes its work. We have also looked at how moving more high school credited courses to the middle level might assist us in moving toward CORE 24. All of these possibilities are not without impact. In both cases, teacher certification is critical and has implications.

The bottom line is implementation of CORE 24 for the 2015 school year will result in direct and significant financial impacts, scheduling impacts, and staffing impacts all of which we need more time to address thoughtfully and with stakeholder input.

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.

Part of the process of looking at a new high school and running a bond in 2017 will be for both high schools and the district to review the philosophy of the College and Career Ready High School. Research will be conducted related to appropriate programs, scheduling and how to work with other impacted district services (food services, transportation, athletics, activities) as well as collective bargaining agreements. Both schools' leadership teams will be involed in the research process and make recommendations to staff, district acministrators and the school board. Community input will play a key role as well. Throughout the planning process we will be working to implement the additional 1.5 credits into the graduation requirements with thoughtful community participation. We will need to look at how to make staffing adjustments and how we may need to reallocate district resources to support the implementation of CORE 24.

Final step

Please attach the district resolution required by WAC 180-51-068, signed and dated by the chair or president of the board of directors and the district superintendent.