



# THE WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*A high-quality education system that prepares all students for college, career, and life.*

**AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 04-23-006, filed 11/04/04, effective 12/05/04)**

**WAC 180-18-055 Alternative high school graduation requirements.**

(1) The shift from a time and credit based system of education to a standards and performance based education system will be a multiyear transition. In order to facilitate the transition and encourage local innovation, the state board of education finds that current credit-based graduation requirements may be a limitation upon the ability of high schools and districts to make the transition with the least amount of difficulty. Therefore, the state board will provide districts and high schools the opportunity to create and implement alternative graduation requirements.))

(2) A school district(~~(, or high school with permission of the district board of directors,))~~ or approved private high school desiring to implement

(a) a local restructuring plan, pursuant to RCW 28A.305.140, to provide an effective educational system to enhance the educational program for high school students,

(b) or an innovation school or zone designated under RCW.28A.630.081, or

(c) an approved collaborative school for innovation and success pilot project;

may apply to the state board of education for a waiver for a high school from one or more of the requirements of ((~~chapter 180-51~~)) WAC 180-51-067 or WAC 180-51-068.

(3) The state board of education may grant the waiver for a period up to four school years.

~~(4) The waiver application shall be in the form of a resolution adopted by the district or private school board of directors which includes a request for the waiver and a plan for restructuring the educational program of one or more high schools which consists of at least the following information:~~

~~(a) Identification of the requirements of chapter 180-51 WAC to be waived;~~

~~(b) Specific standards for increased student learning that the district or school expects to achieve;~~

~~(c) How the district or school plans to achieve the higher standards, including timelines for implementation;~~

~~(d) How the district or school plans to determine if the higher standards are met;~~

~~(e) Evidence that the board of directors, teachers, administrators, and classified employees are committed to working cooperatively in implementing the plan;~~

~~(f) Evidence that students, families, parents, and citizens were involved in developing the plan; and~~

~~(g) Identification of the school years subject to the waiver.~~ request for a waiver under this section must include a completed application, a resolution adopted by the district board of directors and signed by the board chair or president and the district superintendent, and any supplemental information and documentation as may be required by the state board of education. The resolution must identify the provisions of WAC 180-51-067 or WAC 189-51-068 requested to be waived, identify the high school and the school years for which the provisions would be waived, and state the educational purposes for requesting that they be waived.

(5) ~~The plan for restructuring the educational program of one or more high schools may consist of the school improvement plans required under WAC 180-16-220, along with the requirements of subsection (4)(a) through (d) of this section.)~~ state board of education will develop and post on its public web site an application form for use in requesting a waiver or renewal of a waiver under this section. A completed application must provide at a minimum the following information:

(a) Identification of the specific provisions of WAC 180-51-067 or WAC 180-51-068 proposed to be waived;

(b) Identification of the high school and the school years for which the provisions would be waived;

(c) Identification of the indicators of student performance at the high school that motivate the request for the waiver;

(d) Identification and discussion of the educational purposes to be pursued under the waiver plan;

(e) Identification of the measurable goals for improved student achievement proposed to be attained under the waiver plan, disaggregated by major student subgroup;

(f) An explanation of why waiver of the provisions named in (a) would increase the likelihood of reaching or making significant progress toward the goals over the term of the waiver plan;

(g) A description of the instructional plan to be used to reach the goals for improved student achievement;

(h) An explanation of why successful implementation of the proposed instructional plan requires waiver of the provisions named in subsection (a).

(i) Identification of the measures and metrics that will be used to determine the degree to which the goals of the waiver for student achievement are being met and identify needs for any changes in the waiver plan;

(j) Evidence of support for the waiver plan by families and the community;

(k) A description of how the district will keep families and the community informed of any changes in implementation of the waiver plan and of progress toward meeting the goals of the waiver for student achievement.

(6) The board resolution, completed application, and any supplemental materials must be submitted to the state board of education in electronic form no later than forty (40) days prior to the meeting of the state board of education at which the request for the waiver will be considered and no later than ninety days before the start of the school year for which the waiver would apply.

~~((6) The application also shall include documentation that the school is successful as demonstrated by indicators such as, but not limited to, the following:~~

~~(a) The school has clear expectations for student learning;~~

~~(b) The graduation rate of the high school for the last three school years;~~

~~(c) Any follow-up employment data for the high school's graduate for the last three years;~~

~~(d) The college admission rate of the school's graduates the last three school years;~~

~~(e) Use of student portfolios to document student learning;~~

~~(f) Student scores on the high school Washington assessments of student learning;~~

~~(g) The level and types of family and parent involvement at the school;~~

~~(h) The school's annual performance report the last three school years; and~~

~~(i) The level of student, family, parent, and public satisfaction and confidence in the school as reflected in any survey done by the school the last three school years.))~~

(7) A waiver granted under this section may be renewed on a request of the school district board of directors to the state board of education, using the application form on the state board of education's website. Before submitting the renewal request, the school district must conduct at least one public meeting to evaluate and provide opportunity for public comment on the educational program that was implemented as a result of the original waiver. The renewal request to the state board shall include a description of the programs and activities implemented under the waiver plan, a description of any changes made in or proposed to the original waiver plan and the reasons for such changes, evidence that students in advanced placement or other postsecondary options programs have not been disadvantaged by the waiver, and a summary of the comments received at the public meeting or meetings. In addition to the

requirements set forth in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, an application for renewal of a waiver shall include documentation that the school is making significant progress toward the goals for student achievement enumerated in the prior application, as demonstrated by indicators, disaggregated by major student subgroup, such as:

(a) Student performance on statewide assessments and any district- or school-based assessments of student learning;

(b) Adjusted five-year cohort graduation rate for the last three school years;

(c) Follow-up employment data for the students in the school's last three graduating classes as may be collected by the school or district;

(d) Participation in postsecondary education and training by students in the school's graduates last three graduating classes; and

(e) Any other documentation or data that indicates significant progress in student achievement, especially if data described in (a) through (d) of this section are not available at the time of application.

(8) A waiver from one or more of the requirements of WAC(~~180-51-060~~) 180-51-067 or WAC 180-51-068 may be granted only if the district (~~or school~~) provides documentation (~~and rationale~~) that any ~~noncredit-based~~ graduation requirements developed under

the waiver that will replace the requirements of WAC 180-51-067 or WAC 180-51-068 in whole or in part (~~(180-51-060)~~) will support the state's (~~(performance-based education system being implemented pursuant to RCW 28A.630.885)~~) essential academic learning requirements as developed and periodically revised by the superintendent of public instruction and (~~(the noncredit based requirements)~~) meet the (~~(minimum college core admissions standards)~~) college academic distribution requirements as (~~(accepted)~~) approved by the (~~(higher education coordinating board)~~) Washington student achievement council for students planning to attend a baccalaureate institution.

~~(7)(())~~In the event that the superintendent of public instruction shall determine that the required action plan developed and submitted to the state board of education under RCW 28A.657.050 for a school identified as a persistently lowest achieving school requires compliance with WAC 180-51-067 or WAC 180-51-068, any waiver granted under this section to a district for such a school shall be terminated by the state board of education upon notification of the state board and the district by the superintendent.

~~((8) A waiver granted under this section may be renewed upon the state board of education receiving a renewal request from the school district board of directors. Before filing the request, the school district shall conduct at least one public~~



~~meeting to evaluate the educational requirements that were implemented as a result of the waiver. The request to the state board shall include information regarding the activities and programs implemented as a result of the waiver, whether higher standards for students are being achieved, assurances that students in advanced placement or other postsecondary options programs, such as but not limited to: College in the high school, running start, and tech-prep, shall not be disadvantaged, and a summary of the comments received at the public meeting or meetings.))~~

(9) The state board of education shall evaluate a request for a waiver under this section based on whether:

(a) The district has clearly set specific, quantifiable goals for improved student achievement to be attained through implementation of the waiver plan;

(b) The district has described in detail the instructional plan to be implemented to reach the goals for student achievement;

(c) The district has detailed the measures and metrics through which it will determine the extent to which the goals of the waiver are being attained;

(d) The district has provided a clear explanation, supported by research evidence or best practice, of why the proposed

instructional plan is likely to be effective in achieving the specified goals for student achievement;

(e) The district has clearly explained why waiver of the specific provisions of WAC 180-51-067 and WAC 180-51-068 named in subsection 5(a) of this section is necessary for the successful implementation of the instructional plan;

(f) The district has submitted evidence to show that the instruction to be provided to students under the waiver plan is aligned with Washington state learning standards under RCW 28A.655.070; and

(g) The district has presented evidence of support for the waiver plan by families and the community; and

(h) The district has submitted any other documentation or data that indicates progress in student achievement, especially if data described in (a) through (d) of this subsection are not available at the time of the application.

(10) In addition to the requirements of subsection (8) of this section, the state board of education shall evaluate a request for a renewal of a waiver under this section for additional years based on the following:

(a) The progress of the school to which the waiver applies in reaching the goals for student achievement set forth in the prior application, as measured by the indicators identified in subsection 4(i) of this section;

(b) The five-year adjusted cohort graduation rate of the school for the last three years;

(c) Any available data on postsecondary employment and participation in postsecondary education by students who graduated or will graduate during the term of the current waiver;

(d) Performance by the school during the term of the current waiver on indicators in the Washington achievement index developed by the state board of education under RCW 28A.657.110; and

(e) The level and types of family and parent involvement at the school; and

~~(e)~~(f) Evidence of support from families, teachers, district and school administrators, and the community for continuation of the waiver of the specified provisions of WAC 180-51-067 or WAC 180-51-068 for the additional years requested.

~~(9 11)~~ The state board of education shall notify the state board for community and technical colleges, the ~~((higher education coordinating board))~~ Washington state achievement council and the council of presidents of any waiver granted under this section.

~~((10) Any waiver requested under this section will be granted with the understanding that the state board of education will affirm that students who graduate under alternative graduation~~

~~requirements have in fact completed state requirements for high school graduation in a nontraditional program.)~~)

(~~10~~ 12) (~~(Any)~~) A (~~(school or)~~) district granted a waiver under this chapter shall report (~~(annually)~~) to the state board of education, in a form and manner to be determined by the board, no later than July 31 of each year, on the progress and effects of implementing the waiver.

(~~11~~ 13) Students who graduate under alternative graduation requirements pursuant to a waiver granted under this section have in fact completed state requirements for a high school diploma.