



Strategic Plan Priority | Student Transitions & Diploma

Goal: Students successfully transition into, through, and out of the P-12 system, and graduate from Washington state high schools ready for civic engagement, careers, post-secondary education, and lifelong learning.

Emergency Waiver Program

PREPARED FOR THE APRIL 21, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Action Item

Materials included in packet:

- List of Local Education Agencies with complete applications submitted by 4/16/2020
- Sample Application Form
- Emergency Waiver Program Rules and FAQ may be found at: https://sbe.wa.gov/faqs/emergency_graduation_rules

Synopsis:

The State Board of Education received authority to administer an emergency waiver program to grant local education agencies and private schools flexibility so that students in the graduating class of 2020 or earlier are not negatively impacted by the school building closures due to the novel coronavirus. The waiver program is a temporary solution for immediate challenges faced by students. Under the program, the Board grants the district authority to apply the waivers on an individual student basis. In administering the waiver at the local level, the district must first attempt to help the student earn the credit. OSPI has provided [guidance](#) to support this goal. Additionally, SBE and WSSDA have both created resources to help districts implement competency/mastery crediting immediately during the closures, and that could continue to be used once school resumes in school buildings. WSSDA has created [new subject-](#)

[specific model policies](#) around competency/mastery crediting, and SBE has created [new guidance](#) around providing [competency/mastery crediting](#).

In instances where a student is not able to earn the credit despite that good faith effort, the district may then waive the credit and allow the student to graduate. Authority for the waiver is limited to students who were “on-track to graduate” during the 2019-20 school year and were impacted by school building closures following the Governor’s orders as described above.

An application to grant local education agencies the waiver authority was made available in the iGrants system on April 9, 2020. Applications under consideration during the April 21, 2020 special board meeting include those received and deemed complete by midnight on April 16, 2020. Applications subsequent to that date will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Director on a rolling basis through the program end date of July 31, 2020. However, local education agencies are encouraged to apply no later than June 19, 2020 to ensure time for review and approval of the application, and time for implementation of the waiver at the local level. In order to qualify for the waiver authority, the Local Education Agency must certify compliance with each of the following requirements.

- The local education agency has considered equity in applying for the waiver and will consider equity in administering the waiver. This may include, but is not limited to, an equity analysis, community outreach, or other means to assess and mitigate potential disparate impacts of this waiver.
- The local education agency will grant waivers on an individual student basis to eligible students in accordance with section WAC 180-111-040.
- Prior to granting a waiver, the local education agency will make a good faith effort, as defined in WAC 180-111-020, to help individual students address credit deficiencies and meet core course requirements.

- The local education agency will administer the waiver in accordance with program rules as outlined in Chapter 180-111 WAC.

The Board will consider approval of waiver authority for 113 local education agencies listed in the attached table that have applied and attested to the required information above by 11 am on April 17.

Business Items:

Approval of Emergency Waiver Applications for Local Education Agencies
the 2019-2020 School Year