

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

High school graduation represents growth in academic, social, physical, and occupational skills. Since each student enters the ninth grade with a unique set of needs and abilities, one can expect that the experience provided and the amount of growth observed will vary widely among students. Although there are many differences among students, and graduation from high school will not represent exactly the same growth for every student, the district has adopted minimum requirements for high school graduation.

The Issaquah School District believes that experiences available in a high school classroom enhance the probability of achieving a pattern for life-long learning as well as the achievement of life goals. To this end, the district has elected to require graduation credits beyond those required by the state. These requirements are intended to:

- A. Enhance the quality of life of the individual student; and
- B. Enhance the probability of success of the school district's high school students as a whole in post-secondary education; or
- C. Enhance the probability of success of the school district's high school students as a whole in obtaining employment; and
- D. Enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the individual student.

A credit is defined as 150 (or 180 50 minute periods) hours of planned in-school instruction excluding passing time.

The superintendent shall develop procedures for implementing this policy. These procedures shall include the circumstances under which credit toward high school graduation may be accepted or granted for the following types of learning activities:

- A. Running Start;
- B. Seventh and eighth grade learning;
- C. Alternative learning programs;
- D. Other varied learning programs and activities including:
  - 1. Outside physical education and music activities,
  - 2. Alternative learning experiences,
  - 3. Correspondence and Online learning,
  - 4. Work experience.
- E. College and other transcribed coursework completed at public or approved private schools;

Since home-based coursework is not transcribed as completed at an approved public or approved private school, it will not qualify for Issaquah School District credit toward an Issaquah School District diploma. A diploma, however, may be earned through the parent(s) or other outside agencies.

If not required by state statute, specific high school graduation requirements may be waived for an individual student. Secondary school principals are delegated the responsibility of granting waivers according to procedures adopted by the district and allowed by law.

A student shall be issued a diploma after completing all state and district requirements for graduation. A student shall also be advised that he/she may receive a final transcript, if requested prior to July 1, following graduation.

However, a student's diploma and/or official transcript may be withheld until the student pays for any school property that has been lost or willfully damaged. Upon payment for damages, or the equivalency

through voluntary work, the diploma will be released. The student or his/her parents may appeal the imposition of a charge for damages to the superintendent and the board of directors. The student and his/her parents shall be notified regarding the nature of the violation or damage, how restitution may be made, and how an appeal may be instituted. When the damages or fines do not exceed \$100, the student or his/her parents shall have the right to an informal conference with the principal. As is the case for appealing a short-term suspension (3322), the principal's decision may be appealed to the superintendent and to the board of directors. When damages are in excess of \$100, the appeal process for long term suspension (3324) shall apply.

Graduation requirements in effect when a student first enrolls in high school shall be in effect until that student graduates unless such period is in excess of ten years.

A student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies for violations of suspension level school rules. Graduation ceremony exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be granted.

Cross References:

Policy 3520 Student Fees, Fines, Charges

Legal References:

28A.230.090	High school graduation requirements or equivalencies – Reevaluation of graduation requirements – Review and authorization of proposed changes – Credit for courses taken before attending high school – Postsecondary credit equivalencies
28A.230.120	High School Diplomas – Issuance-Option to receive final transcripts-Notice
28A.600.300-400	Running Start Program
28A.635.060	Defacing or injuring school property--Liability of pupil, parent or guardian
WAC 392-410	Courses of Study and Equivalencies
180-51	High school graduation requirements
392-348	Alternative learning experience requirements.
392-415	Secondary Education - standardized high school transcript
392-169	Special Service Programs - Running Start Program

**Adoption Date: 09.24.86**

**Issaquah School District**

**Revised: 10.28.92; 05.22.96; 07.09.97; 01.10.11**