

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Tacoma School District No. 10 is committed to assuring that all high school graduates receive the best education possible. Students, staff, parents, business leaders and the community are stakeholders, the people who have the most to gain or lose by how well our schools meet the needs of the next generation of students.

The board of directors recognizes that high expectations are a necessary ingredient for stimulating high student achievement for high school students. When standards are in place, a successful school is one that provides excellence and equity for every student. High school graduation requirements and student learning make certain that students, parents and teachers are all focusing in the same direction.

The board of directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 is also committed to developing graduation requirements that establish specific essential learnings. This will provide a clear focus for teachers and students in teaching and learning specific academic skills and knowledge in the classroom.

Increased high school requirements are recommended to provide graduates of Tacoma School District No. 10 with the necessary skills to make a successful transition into post-secondary training or the world of work.

During the ninth-through twelfth-grade experience, each student must satisfy the following requirements. The basic curriculum, required of all students, furnishes the background of general education needed by all citizens. This curriculum also provides for continuity of learning, building upon the education that students have gained in previous school experiences.

Beginning with the class first entering the ninth grade in the 2009–10 school year, graduation requirements for the district are:

- Completing a culminating project, as described in the accompanying regulation;
- qualifying for Washington Certificate of Academic Achievement, as required by the state legislature and
- developing a plan for meeting the high school graduation requirements and post high school career goals
- earning twenty-three (23) high school credits, within each of the diploma categories detailed below;

**High School Graduation Credit Requirements
Beginning with the Entering Class of 2009/10**

Diploma Category		Total Credits Required	Classes	Courses Required	Credits
1.	English	4.0	8	Freshman English 1& 2 Sophomore English 1& 2 English Core Courses	1.0 1.0 2.0
2.	Mathematics	3.0	6	Mathematics Core Courses	3.0
3.	Science	2.0	4	Lab Science Core Courses Science Core Courses	1.0 1.0
4.	Social Studies	2.5	5	United States History Civics World Issues Social Studies Core Courses	1.0 .5 .5 .5
5.	Arts	1.0	2	Arts Core Courses	1.0
6.	Health	1.0	2	Health 1 Health 2	.5 .5
7.	Fitness (PE)	1.0	2	PE 1 PE Core Courses (.5 PE may be earned by participating at the varsity or junior varsity level in any one of the interscholastic sports that are sanctioned by the WIAA or included on a district-approved list)	.5 .5
8.	Occupational Ed	1.0	2	Digital Communications Occ Ed Core Courses	.5 .5
9.	Electives	7.5	15	Students must have junior or senior status to enroll as a Student Assistant or Physical Education Leader and are limited to receiving a total of 1.0 credit (2 classes) during their high school career. A grade of Pass/Fail will be applied to these courses.	
Total Required		23.0	46		

If, in the judgment of the high school principal, there is a reasonable expectation that the student, having completed all of the required credits, will complete her/his additional graduation requirements within the current school year as defined by the state, the student can participate in formal graduation ceremonies without actually graduating. Appeals of this decision must be made in writing by the student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) at least two weeks prior to graduation. Appeals must be sent to the district's Graduation Advisory Leadership Team or other committee designated by the Superintendent.

Any student who (1) has completed four years of high school attendance; (2) is receiving special education or related services under an individualized education program pursuant to state and federal law; and (3) who will continue to receive such services between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one; may participate in formal graduation ceremonies and related activities with his or her peers.

Participation in formal graduation ceremonies under this section shall not:

- (1) Preclude a student from continuing to receive special education and related services under an individualized education program beyond the graduation ceremony, or
- (2) Be construed as the student's receipt of either a high school diploma under RCW 28A.230.120 or a certificate of individual achievement under RCW 28A.155.045.

In the event that other forms of corrective actions are imposed for violations of school rules, the student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be granted.

For the purpose of this policy, credit shall be in compliance with state regulations. A student who qualifies for Special Education services shall satisfy those competency requirements which are incorporated into the Individualized Education Program (IEP).

A student shall be issued a diploma after completing the district's requirements for graduation. A student shall also be advised that he/she may receive a final transcript if requested following graduation. The transcript that is used to determine graduation status for a student becomes the final transcript and will not be altered after the student receives his/her diploma.

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 10 years.

However, a student's diploma may be withheld until the student pays fines for any school property that has been lost or willfully damaged. Upon payment for damages or the equivalent through voluntary work, the diploma will be released.

The superintendent is authorized to develop and implement the necessary regulations for the administration of this policy.

Cross References: Board Policy 3520 Student Fees, Fines, Charges

Legal References:	RCW 28A.230.090(7)	7th & 8th Grade High School Credit
	28A.230.120	Option to Receive Final Transcripts--Notice
	28A.600.300-400	Running Start
	28A.635.060	Defacing or Injuring School Property-- Liability of Parent or Guardian
	WAC 180-50	Courses of Studies and Equivalencies
	180-51	High School Graduation Requirements
	180-57	Secondary Education--Standardized High School Transcript
	392-169	Running Start

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