



Edmonds School District High School Diploma

All students need a solid foundation of reading, writing, and math skills for whatever they plan to do after high school. Several statewide graduation requirements help make sure students have this foundation.

For the graduating classes of 2008-2012, students must pass the reading and writing WASL, a state-approved alternative to the WASL, or an assessment for students in special education. Students can meet the state's math requirement by passing the math WASL, a state-approved alternative, an assessment for students in special education, OR they can continue to *earn* math credits until they graduate. Students who pass the reading, writing, and math assessments earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement or Certificate of Individual Achievement and a high school diploma. Students who fulfill the math requirement by earning math credits do not receive a certificate (CAA or CIA) but do earn a diploma.

Washington State Graduation Requirements

(Requirement year is determined by the student's ninth grade enrollment date.)

1. Meet Credit Requirements

Students pass a required number of classes and earn credits in English, math, science (including one lab), social studies, health and fitness, visual or performing arts, occupational education, and electives. (WAC 180-51-061) (*In the Edmonds School District 22 credits are required for completion.*)

2. Earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement or Certificate of Individual Achievement*¹

Students earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement by meeting standard on the High School Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading, writing, and math or on a state-approved alternative. The Certificate of Individual Achievement allows students in special education programs who are not able to meet standards on the High School WASL to fulfill the requirement.

3. Complete a High School and Beyond Plan

Through the High School and Beyond Plan, students develop a plan that includes their goals for high school and immediately following high school. A student's plan should include the classes needed in preparation for a two- or four-year college, vocational or technical school, certificate program, or the workforce. Students should also use their plan to tell their personal story--what experiences, interests, and goals are shaping who they are now and who they want to become--and to tell teachers how they learn best. Students begin this plan in grade nine and complete the plan in grade twelve. Students present their High School and Beyond Plan through their culminating project. (WAC 180-51-061)

4. Complete a Culminating Project*²

This integrated learning project helps students understand the connection between the real world and school by exploring a field of study they are interested in, connecting it to their academic learnings, and presenting their findings to a community panel.

*For more information, see the CAA and Culminating Project descriptions on the following pages.

Washington State Graduation Requirements

(Requirement year is determined by the student’s ninth grade enrollment date.)

Class of 2008	Classes of 2009-2012	Class of 2013 and Beyond
<p style="text-align: center;">READING AND WRITING</p> <p>Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">READING AND WRITING</p> <p>Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">READING AND WRITING</p> <p>Pass reading and writing High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MATH</p> <p>Pass math High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative). --OR-- Take the math High School WASL at least once. Students who do not pass the test need to earn one math credit (or career and technical course equivalent) after 11th grade AND retake the WASL or an approved math assessment one more time. <i>(Students are required to pass math classes, not assessment, to earn diploma.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MATH</p> <p>Pass math High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative). --OR-- Take the math High School WASL at least once. Students who do not pass the test need to earn two math credits (or career and technical course equivalent) after 10th grade AND retake the WASL or an approved math assessment annually. <i>(Students are required to pass math classes, not assessment, to earn diploma.)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MATH AND SCIENCE</p> <p>Pass math and science High School WASL or assessment for students in special education. --OR-- Pass Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (state-approved alternative).</p>

While the credit requirements and the High School and Beyond Plan are the same for the various graduating classes, there are different options for the Certificate of Academic Achievement and the Culminating Project on the following pages.

¹About the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA), the Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA), and the Certificate of Academic Achievement Options (state approved alternatives to the WASL)

- a. The certificates tell businesses and colleges that a student has a solid foundation of key skills and knowledge in reading, writing, and math. Students who earn a certificate will have it noted on their transcript.
- b. Certificate of Academic Achievement--Not a requirement for graduation until 2013, but students can still earn it by passing the WASL or a Certificate of Academic Achievement Option (a state-approved alternative) in reading, writing, and math.
- c. Certificate of Individual Achievement--Only for students in special education. Not a requirement for graduation until 2013, but students can still earn it by passing the WASL-Modified, Portfolio, or the Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW) in reading, writing, and math.
- d. Students in the classes of 2008-2012 who **earn** math credits until graduation, but do not pass the math WASL or another approved math assessment, are still eligible to earn a diploma but they won't earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement.
- e. The Certificate of Academic Achievement Options are designed for students who have the skills but are unable to show them on the WASL. Students may access the options after taking the WASL once.

The Certificate of Academic Achievement Options are

- a. Collection of Evidence--Students compile a set of classroom work samples with the help of a teacher(s). Collections for students in Career and Technical Education programs can include work from their program and other classes. The state scores collections two times a year.
- b. SAT or ACT--Students may use their math, reading, or English and writing scores on college readiness tests.
 - 1) Minimum math scores: SAT – 470; and ACT – 19.
 - 2) Minimum SAT and ACT reading and writing scores: State Board of Education to determine by December 1, 2007, or earlier, if possible.
 - 3) PSAT--Right now, students may submit a math score of 47 as an approved alternative. After August 31, 2008, the PSAT will no longer be an approved alternative.
- c. Advanced Placement (AP)--Students may use a score of three or higher on select AP exams:
 - 1) Math: calculus or statistics
 - 2) Writing: English language and composition
 - 3) Reading: English literature and composition, macroeconomics, microeconomics, psychology, United States history, world history, United States government and politics, or comparative government and politics.
- d. WASL/Grades Comparison--A student's grades in math courses and/or English courses are compared with the grades of students who took the same courses AND passed the WASL. This option is available to students in the 12th-grade. To access this option, a student must have an overall cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.2 on a 4.0 grading scale.

² About the Culminating Project

Students in the classes of **2008 through 2010** are required to complete a culminating project; the characteristics of the culminating project are determined by each high school. Students in the classes of **2011 and beyond** must complete a culminating project presentation that includes:

- A **description of a project** the student completed from his/her field of study or other interest that surfaced from the student's High School and Beyond Plan. The student will make connections between the project, prior learning experiences, and his/her goals for the future.
- A **reflection of learning** using key pieces of his/her work that demonstrate learning in research, problem solving, analysis, and career exploration in content and elective areas, and in his/her field of study. These key pieces of work will be collected electronically throughout a student's high school career in the Washington Occupational Information System (WOIS) and reviewed annually to determine the status of their Culminating Project. In order to ensure a successful reflection of student learning, students should collect the following key pieces of work:
 - ❑ The student's **High School and Beyond Plan**.
 - ❑ The student's best effort demonstrating research skills in response to at least one of the state **Social Studies Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)**.
 - ❑ The student's best effort at each of the three **Graduation Performance Tasks (GPTs)**--Investigation, Analysis, and Career Exploration. The GPTs are powerful learning experiences that demonstrate essential student competencies, integrate skills from across content areas, and are embedded within courses in all of our district high schools. Students unable to complete one or more GPTs (e.g., students who transfer from other districts) may submit alternate pieces of student work that demonstrate the same key competencies (problem solving, analysis, and career exploration).
 - ❑ Representative **samples of the student's work** in core and elective courses, including his/her best effort at the district anchor tasks. Anchor tasks are important learning experiences that reflect competencies in specific content areas (e.g., English, mathematics) are embedded within courses in all District high schools, and help to align student learning across the district.
 - ❑ **Additional work of the student's choice** that meets the student's interests and/or college planning, such as resumes, teacher recommendation letters, and/or other documents reflecting career interests or experiences.