

## **WAC 180-51-050 High school credit -- Definition. As used in this chapter the term "high school credit" shall mean:**

- (1) **Grades nine through twelve** or the equivalent of a four-year high school program, and grades seven and eight under the provisions of RCW [28A.230.090](#) (4) and (5):
  - (a) One hundred fifty hours of planned instructional activities approved by the district; **or**
  - (b) Satisfactory demonstration by a student of clearly identified competencies established pursuant to a process defined in written district policy. Districts are strongly advised to confirm with the higher education coordinating board that the award of **competency-based high school credit** meets the minimum college core admissions standards set by the higher education coordinating board for admission into a public, baccalaureate institution.
- (2) College and university course work. At the college or university level, five quarter or three semester hours shall equal 1.0 high school credit: Provided, That for the purpose of this subsection, "college and university course work" means course work that generally is designated 100 level or above by the college or university.
- (3) Community/technical college high school completion program - Diploma awarded by community/technical colleges. Five quarter or three semester hours of community/technical college high school completion course work shall equal 1.0 high school credit: Provided, That for purposes of awarding equivalency credit under this subsection, college and university high school completion course work includes course work that is designated below the 100 level by the college and the course work is developmental education at grade levels nine through twelve or the equivalent of a four-year high school program. (See also WAC [180-51-053](#))
- (4) Community/technical college high school completion program - Diploma awarded by school district. A minimum of .5 and a maximum of 1.0 high school credit may be awarded for every five quarter or three semester hours of community/technical college high school completion course work: Provided, That for purposes of awarding equivalency credit under this subsection, college and university high school completion course work includes course work that is designated below the 100 level by the college and the course work is developmental education at grade levels nine through twelve or the equivalent of a four-year high school program. (See also WAC [180-51-053](#))
- (5) Each high school district board of directors shall adopt a written policy for determining the awarding of equivalency credit authorized under subsection (4) of this section. The policy shall apply uniformly to all high schools in the district.
- (6) Each high school district board of directors shall adopt a written policy regarding the recognition and acceptance of earned credits. The policy shall apply to all high schools in the district. **The policy may include reliance on the professional judgment of the building principal or designee** in determining whether or not a credit meets the district's standards for recognition and acceptance of a credit. The policy shall include an appeal procedure to the district if it includes reliance on the professional judgment of the building principal or designee.
- (7) A student must first obtain a written release from their school district to enroll in a high school completion program under subsection (3) of this section if the student has not reached age eighteen or whose class has not graduated.
- (8) The state board of education shall notify the state board for community and technical colleges and the higher education coordinating board of any school or school district that awards high school credit as authorized under subsection (1)(b) of this section.

## **WAC 180-50-300 Equivalency course of study -- Credit for learning experiences conducted away from school or by persons not employed by the school district.**

- (1) Credit, including high school graduation credit, may be granted for school planned or approved learning experiences primarily conducted away from the facilities owned, operated, or supervised by the district or conducted primarily by individuals not employed by the district.
- (2) School planned or approved learning experiences such as, but not limited to, travel study, work study, private lessons, and educational programs sponsored by governmental agencies may be accepted for credit upon compliance with written policies established by the district.
- (3) Written policies which permit the granting of credit for such out-of-school learning activities shall be adopted by the district board of directors and shall be available to students, parents, and the public upon request. Such policies shall include at least the following provisions:
  - (a) Name of program or planned learning experience;
  - (b) Length of time for which approval is desired;
  - (c) Objectives of the program or planned learning experience;
  - (d) Which one or more of the state learning goals and related essential academic learning requirements are part of the program or planned learning experience;
  - (e) Description of how credits shall be determined in accord with WAC [180-51-050\(1\)](#);
  - (f) Content outline of the program and/or major learning activities and instructional materials to be used;
  - (g) Description of how student performance will be assessed;
  - (h) Qualifications of instructional personnel;
  - (i) Plans for evaluation of program; and
  - (j) How and by whom the student will be supervised.
- (4) A proposal for approval of credit for such learning experiences shall be submitted to the personnel designated in the written policy for review, revision, and approval or disapproval prior to the experience and shall include at least the following information:
  - (a) Name of program or planned learning experience;
  - (b) Length of time for which approval is desired;
  - (c) Objectives of the program or planned learning experience;
  - (d) Which one or more of the state learning goals and related essential academic learning requirements are part of the program or planned learning experience;
  - (e) Description of how credits shall be determined in accord with WAC [180-51-050\(1\)](#);
  - (f) Content outline of the program and/or major learning activities and instructional materials to be used;
  - (g) Description of how student performance will be assessed;
  - (h) Qualifications of instructional personnel;
  - (i) Plans for evaluation of program; and
  - (j) How and by whom the student will be supervised.
- (5) The reasons for approval or disapproval shall be communicated to the students and parents or guardians.

## **WAC 180-50-310 Equivalency course of study -- Credit for correspondence courses, electronically mediated courses, and college courses.**

Each common school district board of directors shall adopt policies governing the acceptance of correspondence or college courses for credit, including high school graduation credit. Such rules shall limit acceptance to courses from approved schools or institutions and shall be available upon request for review by students, parents, and the public. The following are approved schools:

- (1) Schools that are members of the National University Continuing Education Association or accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council;
- (2) Community colleges, technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and approved private schools in Washington state; and
- (3) Other schools or institutions, including electronically mediated schools or programs, which are approved, after evaluation of a particular course offering, by the school district.

## **WAC 180-51-110 Equivalency credit for alternative learning experiences, non-high school courses, electronically mediated courses, work experience, and challenges.**

The board of directors of a district offering a high school diploma shall adopt written policies providing for the granting of high school graduation credit for alternative learning experiences, non-high school courses, work experience, and challenges. High school credits may be given for, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Planned learning experiences conducted away from the school under the supervision or with the approval of the school and linked to one or more of the state learning goals and related essential academic learning requirements;
- (2) Work experience on the basis that four hundred five hours of work experience equals one credit;
- (3) National guard high school career training;
- (4) Postsecondary courses in accredited colleges and universities. In the case of courses taken under the statutory running start option under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400, the district shall award high school credit pursuant to RCW 28A.230.090(6);
- (5) Courses in accredited or approved technical colleges;
- (6) Correspondence courses from accredited colleges and universities or schools approved by the National University Education Association or the Distance Education and Training Council;
- (7) Electronically mediated courses meeting standards which shall be adopted by written policy by the school district, or standards adopted by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, or the Distance Education and Training Council, or the Commission for International and Trans-regional Accreditation;
- (8) Other courses offered by any school or institution if specifically approved for credit by the district; and

**(9) Credit based on competency testing, in lieu of enrollment or taking specific courses, may be granted by the district.**