

COLLEGE & CAREER READY DIPLOMA

Every graduate should be Washington Smart

Graduating from high school in Washington today does not guarantee that you're ready for college or a career – and that's a problem. What students learn in high school should be aligned with what today's colleges and employers expect.

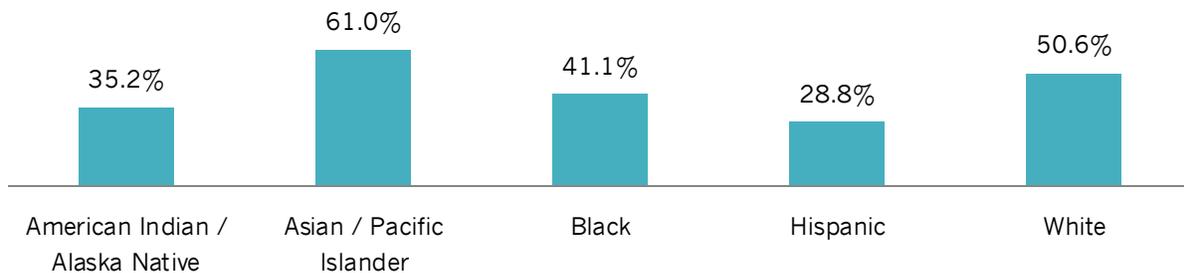
That's why the Excellent Schools Now coalition supports the State Board of Education's proposal for a 24-credit diploma – a high school diploma aligned to college and career ready standards.ⁱ



Why support a new diploma?

Only 4 in 10 graduating seniors in Washington meet the basic admissions requirements to get into an in-state public university.ⁱⁱ As you can see, this number is even more alarming when you break it down by race and ethnicity.ⁱⁱⁱ

Percent of Washington students graduating high school with the credits to enroll in a public university



Additionally, only 6 in 10 graduating seniors are considered “qualified applicants” by Washington employers for jobs that require a high school diploma.^{iv}

Every graduating senior should be ready for college or a career

The truth is that nearly 70% of all jobs in Washington will require postsecondary education – some form of education or training after high school. Yet too many students are finishing high school without the basics.

In Washington, 58% of community college students and 12% of public university students enroll in at least one remedial course.^v That means students are paying college tuition to learn skills they should have mastered in high school.

Employers are not faring much better. Citing a skills gap in writing, math and reading, 36% of Washington employers have difficulty finding qualified job applicants with a high school diploma.^{vi}

Getting it right the first time saves time and money

Remedial education is costly for both students and taxpayers. Students and their families spend hard-earned dollars on tuition, while the state spends tens of millions of dollars to subsidize the cost of remedial education.

In 2011 alone, Washington spent nearly \$22 million on remedial education at community and technical colleges.^{vii} Let's put an end to the costly cycle of remediation by getting it right the first time – in high school.

What it means to be Washington Smart

The College and Career Ready Diploma is more than just 24 credits – it's a foundation of knowledge and skills that students need to be successful after high school. The new diploma will open more doors for high school graduates so that they can pursue multiple opportunities.^{viii}

As you can see in the table, the new diploma adds more credits of science, art, and world language or Personalized Pathway requirements – credits to pursue career and technical education.^{ix} For example, a student interested in healthcare may take medical terminology and patient care as part of her or his Personalized Pathway.

Subject areas	Old requirements (number of credits)	College Ready Diploma requirements
Science	2	3
Arts	1	2
World language or Personalized Pathway requirement	--	2
Other (math, social studies, etc.)	17	17
Total credits	20	24

As Washington continues to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in education, we should be giving more value to all our students, including stronger academic supports, partnerships with businesses and non-profits, and expanded learning opportunities to make sure every student has the tools they need to meet the goal of graduating ready for college and a career.

Sign the petition to support the College and Career Ready Diploma

Add your signature at <http://bit.ly/college-and-career-ready>.

ⁱ Proposed Graduation Course-Taking Requirements, 2014 Session: SBE Legislative Priorities, The Washington State Board of Education

ⁱⁱ The Condition of College & Career Readiness 2013, Washington, ACT State Profile Report, Washington, College Board

ⁱⁱⁱ Washington State Board of Education Transcript Study

^{iv} Washington Employer Survey, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

^v P20 Reports on Washington Public High School graduates, Education Research and Data Center

^{vi} 2012 Employer Survey, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

^{vii} Student Readiness: Remedial Education, 10-Year Roadmap Issue Briefing, Washington Student Achievement Council

^{viii} Why College- and Career-Ready Standards? The Future Ready Project