



## HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT REQUIREMENTS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY AND FLEXIBILITY

### PREPARING WASHINGTON STUDENTS TO SUCCESSFULLY PURSUE CREDENTIALS, CAREERS, AND LIFE

Washington's middle and high school students will graduate into an economy full of opportunity, with more than 740,000 job openings coming over the next five years. Most of those openings will be filled by workers who complete a credential after high school, such as a degree, apprenticeship, or certificate. Our students should be ready to pursue pathways that will best match their interests and lead to credentials that open doors to high-demand jobs.

Partnership for Learning has long supported coursework and graduation requirements that ensure the Washington High School Diploma is a signal to postsecondary institutions, training programs, and employers that Washington students are prepared for their next steps in education and careers.

A key component of a meaningful diploma is the 24-credit graduation requirement. It is intended to ensure **all students take a high school course of study that will prepare them for education beyond high school and their future careers.** Within the required 24 credits, there is flexibility for students to design a set of classes that meet their interests and future career goals, no matter their pathway.

#### FLEXIBILITY BUILT INTO THE 24-CREDIT GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

- Seven of the 24 credits are electives.
- Students can choose foreign language or personalized pathways credits.
- Students can choose from a variety of courses to fulfill their third-year math requirement.
- Students can meet two credit requirements for each CTE course they pass, assuming that course is approved for equivalent academic content. For example, students can earn a math credit and a CTE credit when taking Applied Math II. Students taking Core Plus Aerospace can earn equivalency credit in English, science, or third year math.
- School districts can waive up to two credits if those credits are unnecessary to meet a student's pathway goals or transition successfully after high school.

School districts across Washington are at different stages of implementing the 24-credit requirement. Many districts have modified their master schedules to build in flexibility. Great examples can be found at schools in Bellingham, Pasco, and Sunnyside. The models can provide learnings for schools in earlier phases of implementation.

**To best ensure that students can seamlessly transition to the next phase of their education-to-career pathway, each student must remain engaged through their 12th grade year.** The 24 required credits make sure that happens. Upon graduation, with a meaningful diploma in hand, our students will be ready for education beyond high school and future careers right here in Washington state.