

Frequently Asked Questions

Will WASL retakes be available?

If funding is provided by the 2004 Legislature, retakes will be available beginning in spring 2005. This allows the Class of 2008 five opportunities to take the 10th-grade WASL.

What happens if the Legislature doesn't pass a bill to fund retakes?

The results of the 2004 legislative session are critical to implementing the Certificate of Academic Achievement. At a minimum, the Legislature must fund multiple retakes of the 10th-grade WASL if the Certificate of Academic Achievement is to be a graduation requirement.

Do students have to retake the entire WASL if they don't meet standard in a certain area, or can they just retake a portion of the test?

Students will only need to retake the subject(s) (reading, writing or math) in which they didn't meet standard.

What will the 11th and 12th grades look like after students earn the Certificate of Academic Achievement?

The Certificate of Academic Achievement ensures that ALL students have mastered basic skills. Students must go beyond this level of knowledge to prepare for any work environment and to qualify for admission to college, technical schools, the armed forces or any other post-high school training. They must continue taking rigorous courses in the 11th and 12th grades – including plenty of English, math and science.

More FAQs available online at:
www.renton.wednet.edu

PARENTS!

YOU CAN HELP. Talk with your student(s). Ask them to explain the WASL and the new graduation requirements to you. Help them identify interests and options for the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the new graduation requirements, contact your school counselor, or visit Renton School District's Web site:

www.renton.wednet.edu

Additional information for parents on what you can do to help your student(s) is available at www.partnership4learning.org/classof2008_parents.htm.

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It is the intention of the Renton School District to make educational programs available to all students and to apply District policies and regulations equally to all students without regard to national origin, race, creed, economic status or sex.

Inquiries/grievances regarding Title IX/RCW 28A.640 may be directed to the District Title IX Officer at 300 SW 7th St., Renton, WA (425.204.2360).

Making Sense of the New Graduation Requirements



Renton School District

- Senior Academic Core
- Culminating Project
- Certificate of Academic Achievement
- High School+ Education Plan
- Performance-Based Credits

Renton School District



WE WANT SUCCESS FOR ALL OF OUR STUDENTS

Renton School District wants the best for its students – success at whatever they choose to do in life.

To ensure this success, our students and parents must be familiar with the four new statewide graduation requirements established by the Washington State Board of Education. The Renton School District has added another requirement and has further defined these requirements, which are outlined in this brochure.

Beginning with the Class of 2008, who will be entering ninth grade in the 2004-05 school year, all students in our district will be held accountable to these new requirements. Each student must successfully:

- Complete a Culminating Project
- Earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement
- Earn 22.01 Class Credits
- Draft a High School+ Education Plan
- Take Senior Academic Core Courses

CULMINATING PROJECT

The Culminating Project in the Renton School District is meant to bring together those skills, competencies, and interests acquired during twelve years of schooling. The project will require each student to think analytically, logically, and creatively; to integrate experience and knowledge to form reasoned judgments; and to solve problems within an area of academic, technical, career, or personal interest. Far from a hurdle to be cleared for graduation, the Culminating Project will be, for each student, a model of active, independent learning, providing a meaningful transfer to the years ahead.

SENIOR ACADEMIC CORE

In the senior year, a student's Education Plan will include an Academic Core composed of a minimum of two classes per semester from: English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, World Languages, and/or other courses tailored to fit the student's post-high school plan, approved by the principal or designee.



CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Students must meet standard on the 10th-grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading, writing and math. Science will be added in 2010.

This certificate helps ensure that all students have the basic skills needed to succeed after high school, regardless of where they live, how much money they have or what language they speak.

CLASS CREDIT

In order to graduate from Renton School District, students must earn 22.01 credits, with each whole number representing one year of course study. Credits by subject area:

- English (3.0)
- Social Studies (3.0)
- Science (2.0)
- Health & Fitness (2.5)
- Occupational/Consumer Ed (1.5)
- Math (2.0)
- Arts (1.0)
- Electives (7.0)

HIGH SCHOOL+ EDUCATION PLAN

Students must detail their plans for meeting the high school graduation requirements and what they expect to do one year after graduation.

The intent is to help students identify post-secondary interests (education, travel, military, work, etc.) by thinking about their future and providing a motivation for their work in school.