Welcome!

- Thank you for joining us.
- Your microphone has been muted.
- WASA and the SBE will monitor the chat box.
- Questions will be recorded and responded to post-meeting if there is not sufficient time during the session.
- This session is being recorded and will be posted to the WASA website in the Home Page Highlights and Coronavirus and Pandemic Resources.
- SBE has posted the recording.
Emergency Waivers for Class of 2020
Emergency Credit Waiver Program

for the
Class of 2020

Emergency Waivers for Class of 2020
Conversation Today

- Emergency Waiver Program Context and Overview
- Key Definitions
- Application Process
- Using the Waiver
- Questions
Board Members

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Elected – Spokane Valley

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Appointed - Seattle

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Elected – Pasco

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Appointed – Tumwater

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Eastern Washington Student Board Member

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Appointed

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Appointed – Deming

Jeff Estes
Appointed – Richland

Jan Brown
Private Schools Representative – Tacoma

Patty Wood
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Paul Pitre
Appointed – Seattle

Chris Reykdal
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Margarita Amezcua
Western Washington Student Board Member
Section 10 – 12 Provide authority to the State Board of Education to administer an emergency waiver program to grant local education agencies and private schools flexibility so that students in the graduating class of 2020 or earlier who were on track to graduate before the gubernatorial declaration of emergency of February 29, 2020, and any subsequent amendments to that proclamation, are not negatively impacted by measures taken by the local education agency or private school in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The additional flexibility includes:

- Waiver of certain credits required for graduation for the class of 2020 or earlier provided that:
  - Districts make a good faith effort to address core course requirements and credit deficiencies
  - Students are on-track to graduate with the class of 2020

- Hour and day requirements for private schools for the 2019-2020 School Year
EMERGENCY RULEMAKING TIMELINE
State graduation requirements in light of COVID-19 closures.
Rules Overview

New Chapter WAC 180-111

- 010 Authority and purpose
- 020 Definitions
- 030 Application and approval process
- 040 Emergency waiver of credit-based graduation requirements
- 050 Emergency waiver for private schools
What is the definition of “on-track to graduate” for students?

- “On-track to graduate” means the student has completed or is enrolled in courses that would allow them to meet the state graduation requirements by the end of this school year.

- Planned enrollment means: credits that the student could have reasonably completed by the end of the 2019-20 school year for terms not yet started as of February 29, 2020, as indicated through the student’s:
  - High School and Beyond Plan,
  - Course registration records
  - Credit attainment or recovery plan

- Note: if a term had not yet started by February 29, 2020 (e.g. trimester schools, Running Start, or summer school), then the student’s planned coursework may also count toward “on-track.”
What is the definition of “good faith effort” for districts?

- “Good faith effort” means the local education agency (LEA) or private school considered and implemented options, determined appropriate by the LEA or private school, to support individual students in meeting credit requirements.

- This includes consideration of awarding and waiving of credits through the existing authority of LEAs and private schools (e.g. providing competency credit where appropriate) and through recommendations provided by OSPI’s guidance for supporting seniors (Bulletin 022-20).

- LEAs should consider all the options, determine which ones the LEA can provide, then examine individual circumstances and determine which of the available options are appropriate to implement with the student.
Application process

April 9
Application available on EDS

April 21
Special Board Meeting to review first round of applications

April – Deadline TBD
Rolling approval of applications
Application

- The LEA has considered equity in applying for the waiver and will consider equity in administering the waiver. This may include, but is not limited to, an equity analysis, community outreach, or other means to assess and mitigate potential disparate impacts of this waiver.

- The local education agency will grant waivers on an individual student basis to eligible students in accordance with section WAC 180-111-040.

- Prior to granting a waiver, the local education agency will make a good faith effort, as defined in WAC 180-111-020, to help individual students address credit deficiencies and meet core course requirements.

- The local education agency will administer the waiver in accordance with program rules as outlined in Chapter 180-111 WAC.
What is the process for using the waiver for individual students?

- The State Board of Education (SBE) approves applications from Local Education Agencies (LEAs). LEAs with an approved waiver may waive specific graduation requirements for individual students (by law, waivers are only applicable for Class of 2020 students and earlier classes (i.e., 5th year seniors) who were on-track to graduate this 2019-20 school year).

- Once approved, the district has the authority to waive credits for individual students according to the program rules.

- The rules require that LEAs explore options to provide students the opportunity to earn credit, since it is the first and preferred option that students earn the credit they need to graduate.

- The LEA shall consult with the individual student, and make a reasonable effort to consult with a parent or guardian of the student, and shall make a reasonable effort to provide information about this waiver in the preferred languages of the student, and of the parent or guardian of the student if applicable. The information shall include but is not limited to:
  - (i) What is being waived for the individual student
  - (ii) Potential benefits and limitations that could result from receiving the waiver including impacts on high school graduation and postsecondary plans
  - (iii) The option for the individual student to decline the waiver and for the student to be provided with the opportunity to earn the credits needed to complete graduation requirements through continued enrollment beyond the planned graduation date.
What is the process for using the waiver for individual students? (continued)

- The **LEA shall consult with the individual student**, and make a reasonable effort to consult with a parent or guardian of the student, and shall make a reasonable effort to provide information about this waiver in the preferred languages of the student, and of the parent or guardian of the student if applicable. The information shall include but is not limited to:
  - (i) What is being waived for the individual student
  - (ii) Potential benefits and limitations that could result from receiving the waiver including impacts on high school graduation and postsecondary plans
  - (iii) The option for the individual student to decline the waiver and for the student to be provided with the opportunity to earn the credits needed to complete graduation requirements through continued enrollment beyond the planned graduation date.
Additional administration requirements

• Consider equity in administering the waiver
  • Examples: Equity analysis, community outreach, etc.
  • Identify and mitigate potential disparate impacts
  • Determine if changes in approach are needed

• Maintain individual student record of courses and requirements waived

• Report to the State Board of Education (format TBD)
What can be waived?

- The limit on number of credits waived is based on what a student was enrolled in or planning to reasonably complete by the end of the 2019-20 school year.
- Waived graduation requirement credits may include both core credit graduation requirements and flexible credit graduation requirements, as defined in WAC 180-51-210.
What the waiver **does not** do?

- The waiver **does not** address potential impacts on earlier grades or students graduating after this school year. This would require additional legislation.
- The waiver **does not** apply to local graduation requirements. Districts have the authority to waive their local requirements.
- The waiver **cannot be** used to address missed hours/days for public schools. (OSPI is providing guidance on hour/days requirements.)
What the waiver **does not** do? (continued)

- It **does not** waive other graduation requirements:
  - **Graduation Pathway Options** - If a student has not previously met the pathway requirement, they may be eligible for the Expedited Assessment Appeal (waiver).
  - **HSBP Requirements** - There are more requirements now, but schools can work one-on-one with Class of 2020 students to complete this for each student, even if it was not done before the school closures. The LEA determines if this requirement is met.

- The waiver **does not** apply to students in grades 9, 10, or 11 this year.

- See [OSPI’s guidance](#) (Appendix G). Many students may need to access the expedited appeal process if they are unable to meet the pathway requirements due to the cancelation of testing or other issues due to closures.
Questions?
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Closing Thoughts