

Dear Lake Washington Students and Families,

In 2019, the Washington State Legislature provided students in the class of 2020 and beyond with multiple pathways to graduation by passing House Bill (HB) 1599. HB 1599 expands the ways Washington students show readiness for their next steps after high school.

In order to graduate, Lake Washington students are required to earn 24 credits in specific courses and complete a High School and Beyond Plan. Before HB 1599, students were also required to pass state assessments in English Language Arts and math. **Student may still use these assessments to satisfy graduation requirements, but now have additional “pathway options.”**

The graduation pathway options offered in Lake Washington School District are:

1. **State Assessment:** Meet or exceed the graduation scores in the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) in English language arts (ELA) and math or in WA-AIM (Washington Access to Instruction & Measurement).
2. **Dual Credit:** Earn at least one high school credit in ELA and at least one high school credit in math in dual credit courses (Running Start, College in the High School, and/or Career and Technical Education dual credit courses).
3. **AP and Cambridge:** For both ELA and math, earn a 3 or higher on certain Advanced Placement (AP) or an E on certain Cambridge International exams, or pass courses with at least a C+.
4. **SAT/ACT:** Meet or exceed the graduation scores set by the State Board of Education in the math and ELA portions of the SAT or ACT.
5. **Transition Course:** Pass a transition course in ELA and math which allows a student to place directly into a credit-bearing college level course.
6. **Combination:** Meet any combination of at least one ELA and one math option of those options listed in 1-5.
7. **ASVAB:** Meet standard on the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) by scoring at least the minimum established by the military for eligibility to serve in a branch of the armed services.
8. **CTE Sequence:** Complete a sequence of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

For most students, meeting standard on the state assessment will be the first pathway option available in high school. All students, regardless of which graduation pathway they intend to use, are expected to take the statewide English language arts (ELA) and math assessments during 10th grade and to incorporate their results in their High School and Beyond Plan. For these reasons, we recommend that students initially plan to use the state assessment to meet the graduation pathway option requirement and take advantage of additional pathway options that are aligned with their High School and Beyond Plan as appropriate.

Our high school counselors and staff will be working with students and families to provide additional information about the new pathway options. They will also help students and families select the most suitable pathway options.

Additional information about graduation requirements can be found on the High School Course Guide on our website: <https://www.lwsd.org/schools/high-school/high-school-guide>