

Advance Notice  
March 28, 2012

## **High School Civics Course Graduation Requirement – Hard**

**Action to be taken: I move the Board approve Resolution 1006 to delay implementation of the new Civics Graduation Requirement.**

The Washington State Board of Education has established WAC 180-51-067 requiring 3 credits of social studies for graduation for students enrolled in the graduating class of 2016 and beyond. This requirement includes 1 credit of US History, 1 credit of Contemporary World History, Geography and Problems, .5 credit of Civics, and .5 credit of social studies elective. ISD graduation requirements meet all of these criteria except the new .5 Civics course. We are presenting a resolution requesting the Washington State Board of Education to grant a two-year extension in the implementation of this Civics graduation requirement.

Significant change must be made to ensure there are sufficient classes available to students in order to meet this new graduation requirement. More time is needed to consider options and to create an additional high school course so that our students have access to more social studies to meet this state requirement while still preserving elective options.

In establishing this graduation requirement, the State Board of Education built in a provision to allow school districts to receive a two-year extension from the changes to the social studies and English credit requirements. This exemption period provides school districts additional time to plan for and implement the required changes. Districts seeking an extension must file a written resolution approved by the local school board, stating the district's rationale and specifying which requirement (additional English and/or social studies credits) it intends to delay. This resolution must be filed with the State Board of Education by June 1, 2012. The State Board does not need to approve the resolutions; it just needs to receive them.

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