

Increased Graduation Requirements at Liberty High School

Currently, LHS students are required to earn 28 credits to graduate from Liberty High School. We are recommending an increase to 29.5 credits, beginning with the Class of 2017.

Why 29.5 credits for Liberty High students in the Class of 2017 and beyond?

Historically, students at Skyline and Issaquah High Schools have been required to earn 22 credits out of 24 available credit-bearing opportunities to earn their diploma. In our desire to align our three comprehensive high schools, Liberty High students should be expected to earn 29.5 credits out of 32 credit-bearing opportunities. To meet this new requirement the District would need to add 1.5 total credits to the Class of 2017 and beyond. This would put our comprehensive high school's credit requirement at approximately 92% of the required courses opportunities to graduate.

Where do we recommend adding credits to the Liberty High School Graduation Requirements?

First, we feel that adding a **1.0 credit in Science** would better prepare our students for post high school plans, whether they attend a four-year, two-year or a professional/technical school. We do not recommend designating a specific science course or that the third credit must be a lab-based science. Examples may include Material Science, Environmental Science, and Sports Medicine. This would raise the current requirement from 2.0 to 3.0 for LHS students. There are currently a number of science options for all types of students at LHS.

Next, we recommend adding an additional **.5 credit in Social Studies**. We are currently developing an integrated course that would have an emphasis on writing, reading and sustainability and prepare our students for the demands of the CCSS and for the research process. We believe the course should be placed in the 12th grade and would be titled Sustainable Systems: Ecological, Economic and Social. This would raise the Social Studies requirements from 3.5 to 4.0 credits. Our current thinking is that LHS 12th grade students would take a full year of Social Studies with .5 in Civics and .5 being this new course.

Subjects	Liberty HS Current Requirements	Liberty HS Proposed Requirements
English	4.0 credits	4.0 credits
Mathematics	3.0 credits	3.0 credits
Social Studies	3.5 credits	4.0 credits
Science	2.0 credits	3.0 credits
Career & Technical Education(CTE)	1.0 credit	1.0 credit
Physical Education	2.0 credits	2.0 credits
Health	.5 credit	.5 credit
Fine or Applied Arts	1.0 credit	1.0 credit
Electives	9.0 credits	9.0 credits
Senior Core Elective	1.0 credit	1.0 credit
Senior General Elective	1.0 credit	1.0 credit
TOTAL CREDITS	28.0	29.5