Policy 2000

Credit Attainment

It is the policy of Tacoma Public Schools to permit students to earn credit to be applied towards high school graduation in all manners acceptable under the laws and regulations of the State of Washington. This includes credits earned in the following manner:

1. Successful completion of courses offered in at any of the high schools within the district;
2. Successful completion of a course at the middle school that has been determined to be similar or equivalent a course offered at a high school within the district;
3. Successful completion of Online Courses or Online School Programs (Policy 2024 and Regulation 2024R);
4. Satisfactory demonstration by a student of proficiency/competency. The following identify methods by which students can demonstrate proficiency/competency:
   a. Successful completion of a Back on Track Course. Each Back on Track Course will identify the specific required essential academic learning requirements/learning standards the student is working to meet and the identified measure by which attainment of proficiency/competency will be demonstrated.
   b. Passage of one of the following for World Language credit: Standards Based Measure of Proficiency (STAMP) (available in Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Mandarin); American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT) for languages for which STAMP is not available; Sign Language Proficiency Interview for American Sign Language; and for languages that do not currently have any nationally available proficiency based assessments, the District will work with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and local language communities to identify a collection of evidence process to demonstrate proficiency. This option is available to native/heritage speakers as well as students who have learned a World Language outside of the school day.
   c. Passage of an Advanced Placement exam with a score of 3 or higher, or respectively meeting standard on International Baccalaureate exam;
   d. Meeting identified cut scores by the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee on PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams;
   e. Receiving a Level 3 or Level 4 score on the Washington State High School Proficiency Exams. Passing the Reading and Writing tests with a Level 3 or Level 4 score will be recognized with Passing (P) grade for 9th and 10th grade
Language Arts; passing the Math test with a Level 3 or Level 4 score will be recognized with a Passing (P) grade for Algebra and Geometry; and passing the Science test will be recognized with a Passing (P) grade for Biology;

f. Successful completion of a Collective of Evidence, Portfolio, or any other alternative assessment system identified by the State of Washington as an alternative to High School Proficiency Exams. Passing an alternative assessment system in a content area will be recognized by a Passing (P) grade.

g. Passing the Washington State End of Course exam in any subject at a Level 3 or Level 4. Passing such an exam at a Level 3 or 4 will be recognized with a Passing (P) grade in that subject;

h. Successful completion of a Classroom-Based Assessment to demonstrate competence in health and fitness and/or civics; and

i. Participation directed athletics, which includes both Tacoma Public Schools athletics programs and community-based organized athletics.

(5) Successful completion of college and university course work;

(6) Successful completion of Career and Technical Education courses at community/technical college that have been reviewed and approved for equivalency credit (Policy 2413);

(7) Successful completion of correspondence or distance learning courses obtained from:

a. Schools that are members of the National University Continuing Education Association or accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council;

b. Portable Assisted Study Sequence (PASS) Program;

c. Community colleges, technical colleges, four-year colleges and universities (either private or public), and approved private schools high schools in Washington state; and

d. Other schools or institutions, including electronically mediated schools or programs, which are approved by the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee.

(8) Successful completion of Alternative Learning Experience Courses (Policy 2255 and Regulation 2255R);

(9) Instruction provided by a contractor; (Regulation 2000.1R);
(10) National Guard - Participation in a national guard high school career training program for which credit is being given toward either required or elective high school credits pursuant to RCW 28A.300.165 and WAC 392-410-320.

(11) Ancillary service- Any co-curricular service or activity, any health care service or activity, and any other services or activities, for or in which enrolled students are served by appropriate school district staff. The term shall include, but not be limited to, counseling, psychological services, testing, remedial instruction, speech and hearing therapy, health care services, and if such service is provided by the district to students who are in a home-based instruction program.

(12) Work based learning - Training provided pursuant to WAC 392-410-315 and reported as provided in WAC 392-121-124; and

(13) Running start - Attendance at an institution of higher education pursuant to RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400, chapter 392-169 WAC.

Legal Reference:  
RCW 28A.230.090 High school graduation requirements or equivalencies — reevaluation of graduation requirements — review and authorization of proposed changes — credit for courses taken before attending high school — postsecondary credit equivalencies.

RCW 28A.305.140 Waiver from provisions of RCW 28A.150.200 through 28A.150.220 Authorized

WAC 180-51-050 High school credit — definition.

WAC 180-51-066 Minimum requirement for high school graduation – Student entering the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2009.

WAC 392-121-107 Definition — course of study.

WAC 392-121-182 Alternative learning experience Requirements

WAC 392-121-188 Instruction provided under contract

WAC 392-410-315 Equivalency course of study — credit for work based learning.

Adopted 11/26/12