

Class of 2020 Graduation Requirements: Frequently Asked Questions

Flexibility on Requirements

Q-1: What flexibility do students in the Class of 2020 have on graduation requirements, given the closure of school facilities?

High School and Beyond Plan (HSBP)	Credit Requirements	Graduation Pathways	Local Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification that HSBP requirements are met is determined at the local level. • Seniors may need support completing senior year HSBP requirements. Refer to the "High School & Beyond Plans (HSBP)" section of Bulletin No. 022-20. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts may waive up to two non-core credits for individual students, in alignment with local policy (WAC 180-51-210 (2)) • Districts may be granted authority to waive individual students' credit requirements through the Emergency Waiver Program offered through the State Board of Education (SBE). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple graduation pathways are available to the Class of 2020, including the Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) for students served with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). • The Expedited Assessment Appeals (EAA) Waiver is available to students who have not yet met graduation pathway(s) or CIA requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts may have adopted additional local graduation requirements and may waive those local requirements. • OSPI has recommended districts consider waiving additional local graduation requirements for the Class of 2020.



Graduation Pathway(s)

Q-2: Which options are available for students in the Class of 2020 to meet the graduation pathway requirement?

The different graduation pathways are described on [SBE's website](#) or on an OSPI one-page [summary](#). Some graduation pathway options include completing courses/credits, and others are based on completing assessments. Students served with an IEP may also access the [CIA options](#). An [EAA waiver](#) may also be available for students in the Class of 2020 to waive the graduation pathway requirement (additional information on the EAA follows in this document).

Q-3: If a student is getting some credits waived, do they still need to meet the graduation pathway requirement for graduation?

Yes. Even if some credits are waived, the other graduation requirements are still applicable.

Q-4: What if a student was taking a spring semester course that would have met a graduation pathway requirement, but received an "incomplete" instead? Would that count as meeting the graduation pathway requirement?

No. The student would need to complete the course and earn the credit to meet the graduation pathway requirement.

Q-5: What if a student was taking a spring semester course that would have met a graduation pathway requirement, but the credit was waived? Does that count as meeting the graduation pathway requirement?

No. Because the credit was waived, it does not count as *meeting* the graduation pathway requirement. However, the student is eligible for the Expedited Assessment Appeal waiver if they have met all other graduation requirements. See Q&A below regarding EAA categories.

Q-6: What if a student had planned to meet the graduation pathway requirement by demonstrating proficiency on a test such as Smarter Balanced, SAT, or ACT, but spring testing was canceled?

The student is eligible for the Expedited Assessment Appeal waiver if they have met all other graduation requirements. See Q&A below regarding EAA categories.

Graduation Pathways and Students with Disabilities

Q-7: Can students with disabilities in the Class of 2020 still earn a Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) to meet the graduation requirement?

Yes, students in the Class of 2020 or earlier are eligible to earn a CIA for purposes of meeting the graduation requirement. CIA options include Smarter Balanced off-grade level assessment, a CIA cut-score (formerly known as Level 2 Basic) on the high school Smarter Balanced



Assessment, and the Locally Determined Assessments (LDA). The WA-AIM is another way to achieve a CIA but is specific to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Q-8: What if a student had planned to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment this spring at an “off-grade” level to earn a CIA, but the tests were canceled?

The student is eligible for the Expedited Assessment Appeal waiver if they have met other graduation requirements.

Q-9: While school facilities are closed, could a student attempt Locally Determined Assessments (LDA) for purposes of meeting a graduation requirement?

Yes, if the [LDA](#) can be administered remotely while adhering to the test publisher’s protocols. In-person assessments are not to be completed during the school facility closures. Information about whether an LDA can be administered remotely will be found in the test publisher’s protocols and will be unique to each assessment. Students have the option to apply scores from an LDA that was administered during the student’s 10th, 11th, or 12th grade years.

Expedited Assessment Appeal Waiver

Q-10: Which students are eligible for the Expedited Assessment Appeal (EAA) waiver?

Students in the Class of 2020 or earlier classes (2014–19).

Q-11: What does an EAA do?

For students in the Class of 2020, it can waive the graduation pathway requirement or, if applicable, the Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) requirement.

For students in the Class of 2019 or earlier classes, it can waive the Certificate of Academic Achievement (CAA) or the Certificate of Individual Achievement (CIA) requirement.

Q-12: What are the requirements to have the EAA approved?

A student must have met all other applicable graduation requirements and one of the EAA categories that demonstrates their skills and knowledge.

Q-13: What are the eligible categories to demonstrate skills and knowledge for the EAA?

1. Admission to an institution of higher education or career preparation program
2. Scholarship for higher education
3. Completion of a college-level course (that does not meet dual credit criteria)
4. Military enlistment
5. Other: Student was enrolled in a spring 2020 course that would have met a graduation pathway, but the credit was waived



6. Other: Student intended to take a test (such as Smarter Balanced, ACT, or SAT) to demonstrate proficiency, but the test session was canceled in spring 2020
7. Other demonstration of student's skills and knowledge

Q-14: What documentation needs to be submitted to OSPI to demonstrate the student meets one of the categories?

Documentation does not need to be submitted to OSPI. However, according to retention schedules, districts should retain information in the student's education record that demonstrates the student met one of the EAA categories and received the EAA.

Additionally, with each EAA submission, the authorized representative for the school district will certify that the student has "the necessary skills and knowledge to meet the high school graduation standard and that the student has the skills necessary to successfully achieve the college or career goals established in his or her high school and beyond plan" ([RCW 28A.655.065](#)).

Q-15: Who submits the EAA to OSPI, and how?

District Assessment Coordinators (DACs), or their designees, submit the appeal on behalf of the school district. DACs are the district personnel authorized to submit Expedited Assessment Appeals into the system. Appeals are submitted through the Expedited Assessment Appeals tab in the Graduation Alternatives application within the Education Data System (EDS).

Q-16: When will districts be able to make EAA submissions?

The EAA application will be offline temporarily while minor updates are made and is expected to be online again by May 1, 2020.

If the student is reasonably expected to meet all other graduation requirements, the EAA can be submitted any time (as long as the system is online). It is not necessary to wait until the end of the academic term.

Q-17: If a student is seeking an EAA, what is sufficient evidence for fulfilling the "Other" category? What evidence does a district need to submit?

Students may have demonstrated the skills and knowledge to meet the graduation standard in various ways outside the defined EAA categories. Evidence for the "Other" category could be a student statement describing the (math or English language arts) skills needed for their post-secondary plans and career goals, and how their courses have prepared them for those plans. Similarly, the student's High School and Beyond Plan may contain enough specific information regarding the student's plans, goals, and achievements. Student projects, writings, or other accomplishments exhibiting their knowledge and skills may also be sufficient to demonstrate they've achieved the graduation standard.

Districts should retain the documentation supporting the student's EAA waiver, but do not need to submit information to OSPI. Instead, district staff will certify that the student has the



“necessary skills and knowledge to meet the high school graduation standard and that the student has the skills necessary to successfully achieve the college or career goals established in his or her High School and Beyond Plan.”

Q-18: Does the Class of 2018 have different eligibility for the EAA waiver?

Yes, Class of 2018 students need to attempt at least one alternative option before submitting for the EAA. That could be Smarter Balanced, SAT/ACT/IB/AP tests, Collection of Evidence, GPA comparison, or completing a dual credit course. More information is available on the [EAA FAQ webpage](#). They do not need to attempt Smarter Balanced first before trying one of the alternatives to be eligible for the EAA.

This difference for students in the Class of 2018 is a result of the law [RCW 28A.655.065](#) (5)(c)(iii).

