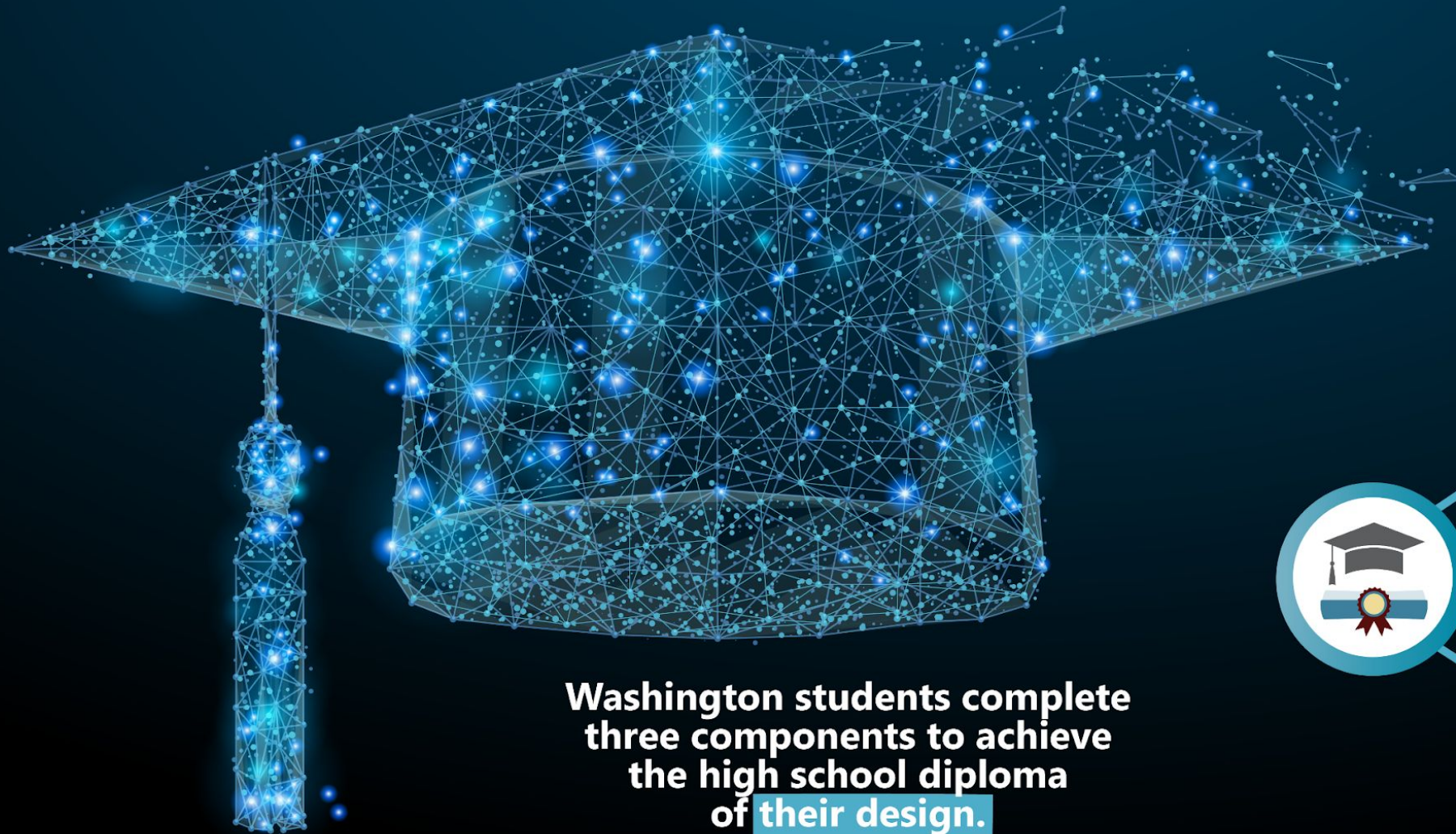
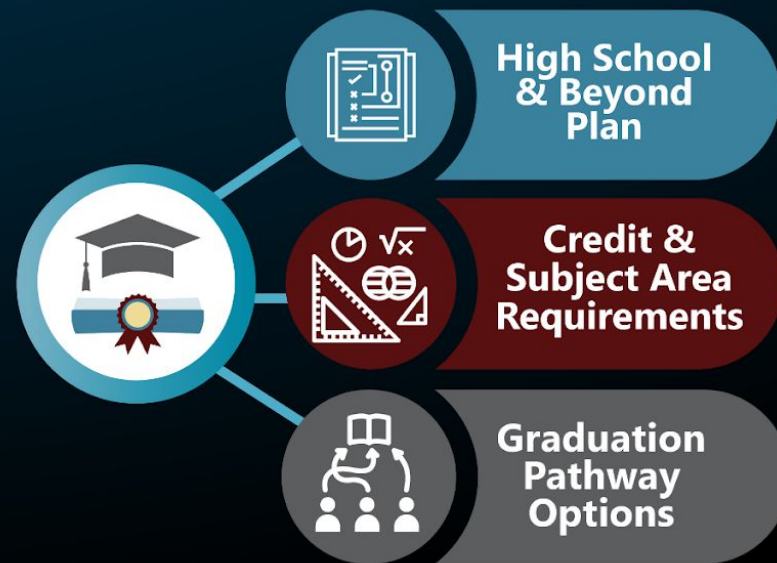


Emergency Waiver Program for Class of 2020 and 2021

Washington State Board of Education



Washington students complete three components to achieve the high school diploma of their design.



The purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner. (RCW 28A.230.090)



Emergency Waiver Summary

House Bills 1121 and 1131 (Laws of 2021) authorized the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement an emergency waiver program to authorize school districts and private schools to waive certain graduation requirements because of disruptions in learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The emergency waiver program is intended to help prevent students from being unduly impacted by unforeseen disruptions to coursework and assessments resulting from an emergency or disaster. The waiver program will:

- Give districts authority to waive certain credit and graduation pathway option requirements for individual students who were unable to complete graduation requirements despite a good faith effort on the part of the district to help the student meet the requirements.
- Provide for a waiver of the hour or day requirement for private schools for the 2020-2021 school year; also states that the instruction hour requirement for private schools with an online education program is deemed met.

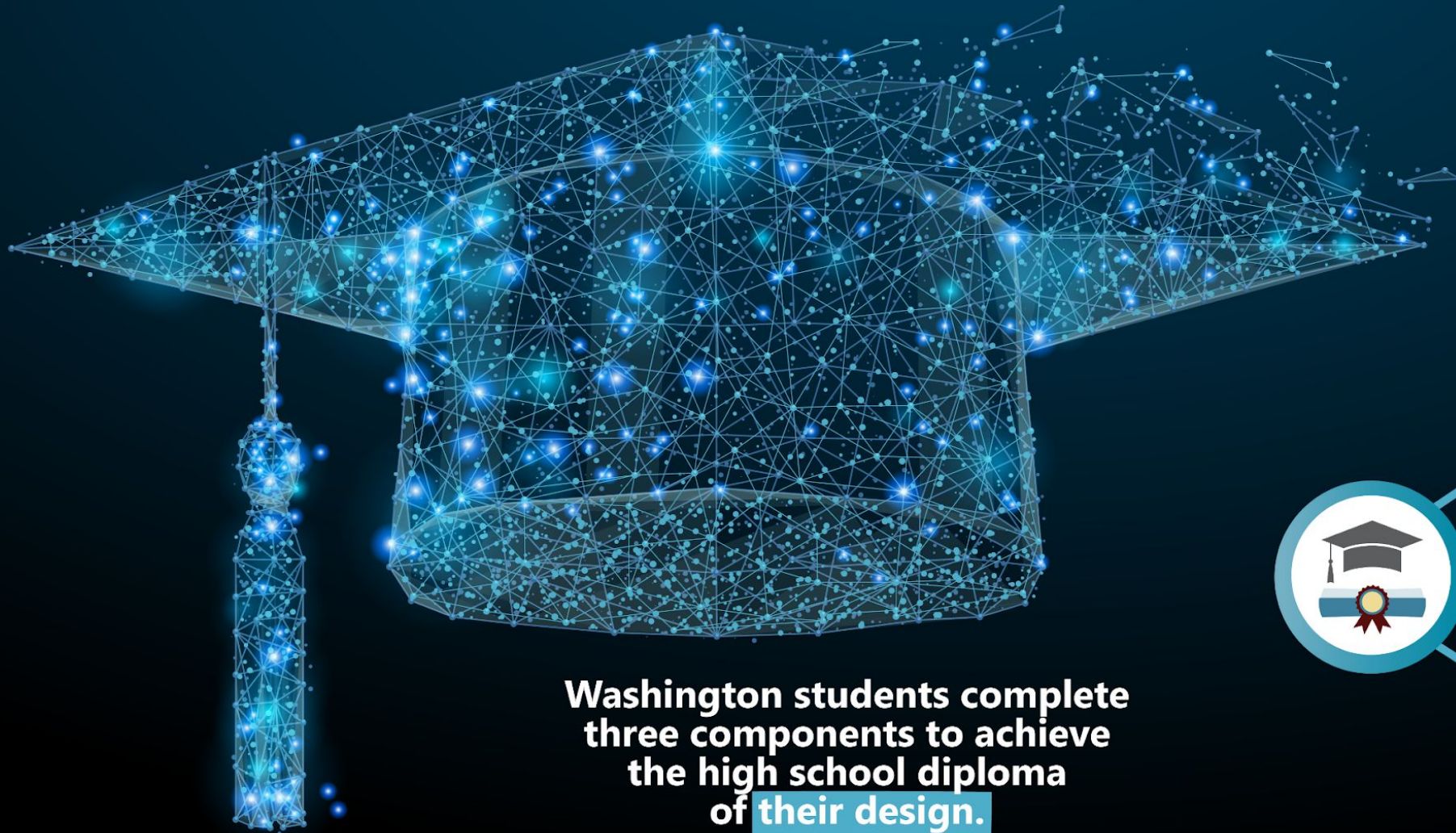
The waiver allows LEAs (school districts, charters schools, and tribal compact schools) and private schools to waive certain credit and graduation pathway option requirements for graduating students on a case-by-case basis.

- The waiver does not apply to local graduation requirements. Districts have the authority to waive their local requirements.
- Students awarded the waiver must have demonstrated preparation for their postsecondary plan according to their High School and Beyond Plan.

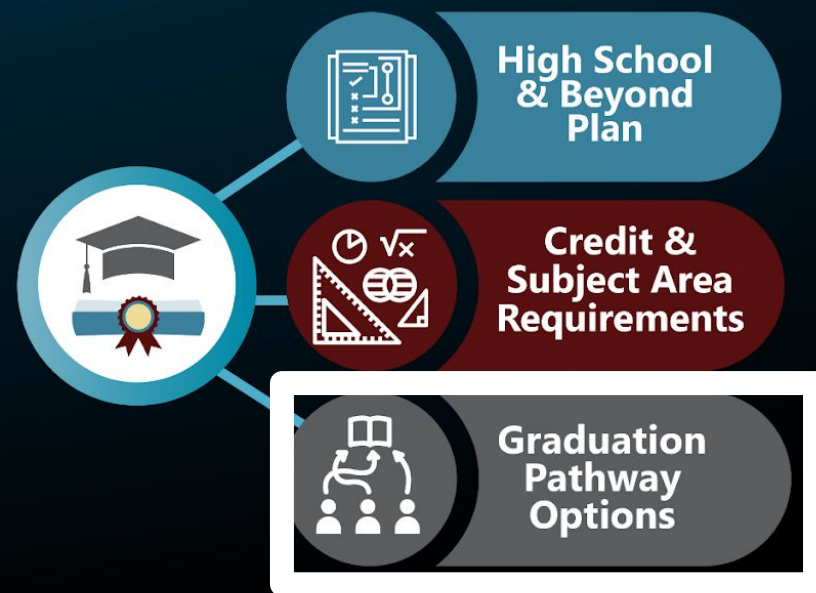
The waiver applies to the class of 2020 and 2021 only.



Review of Rules



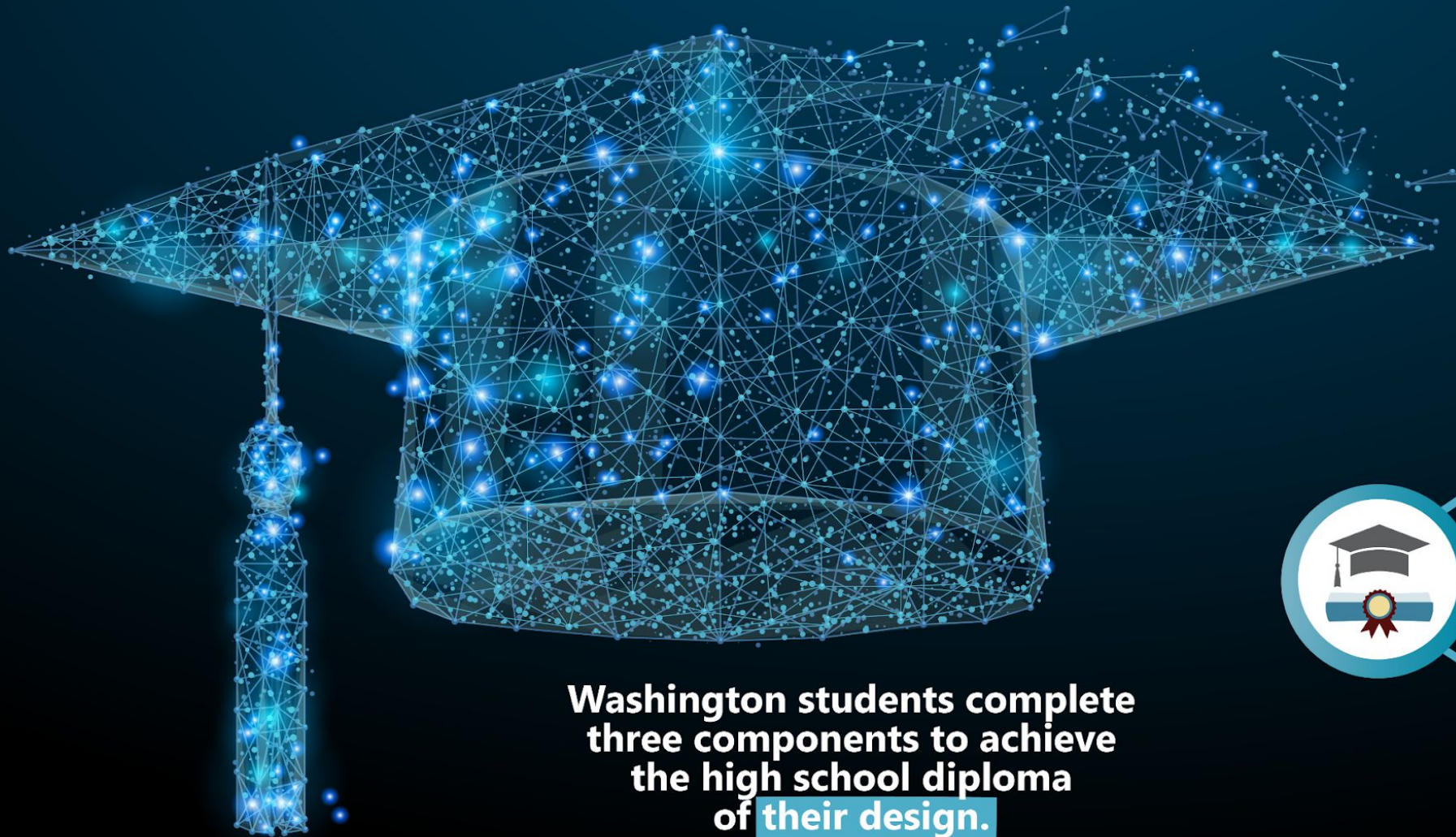
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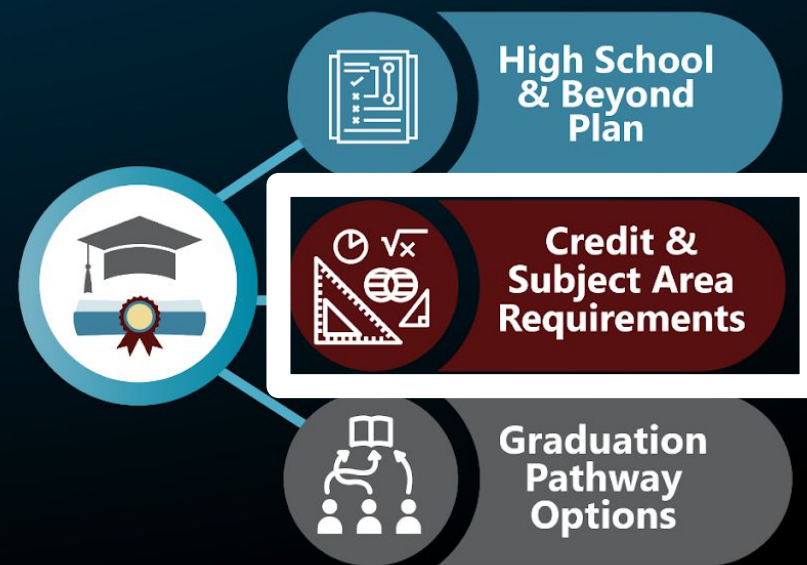
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Waiver of Graduation (Assessment) Pathway Requirement

- Pathway requirements also formerly known as the assessment graduation requirement.
- WAC 180-111-050: (2) A student's graduation pathway requirement may be waived for eligible students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 after a school district has made a good faith effort to help the student meet their pathway requirement, as defined in WAC 180-111-020.

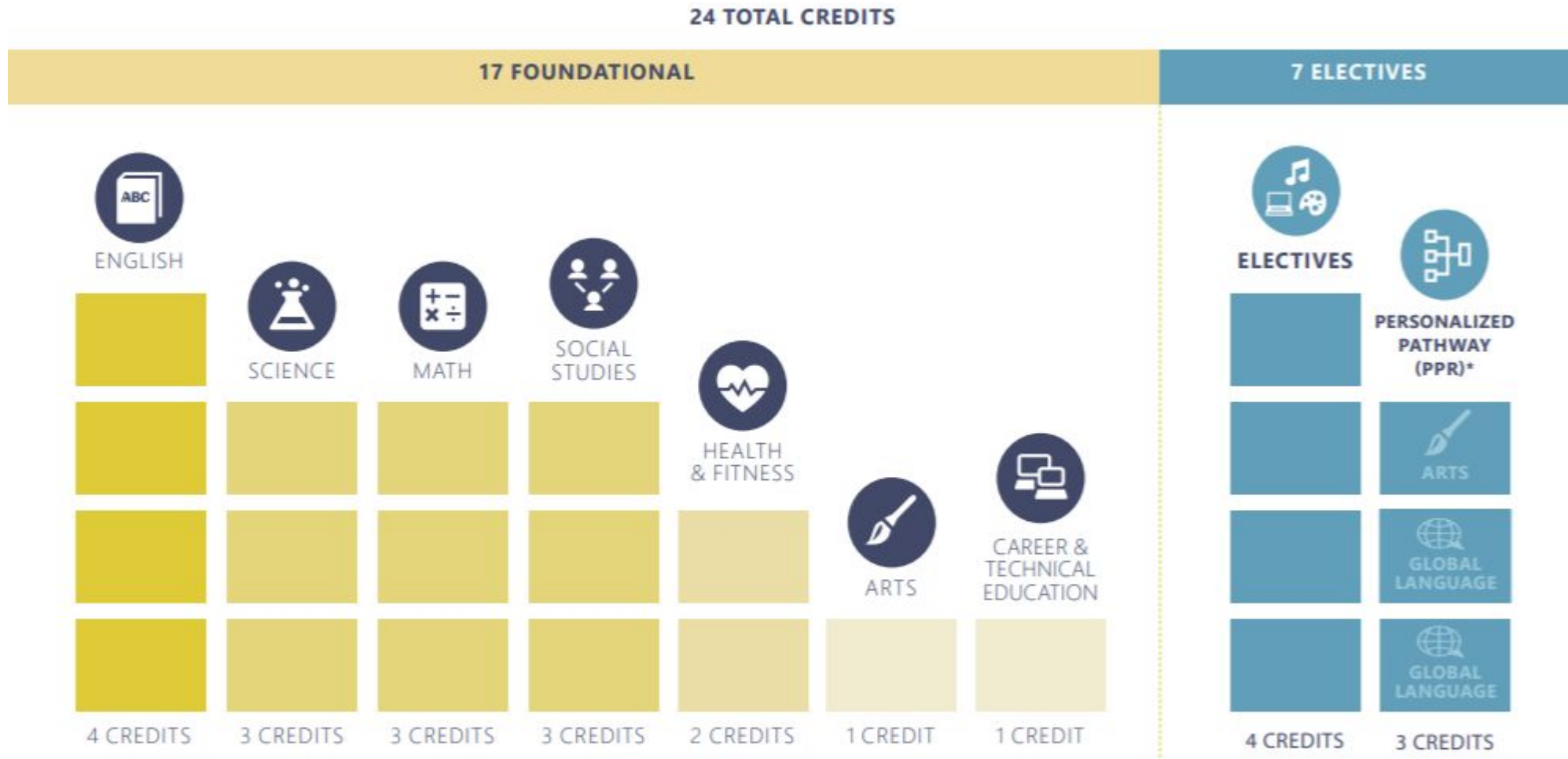


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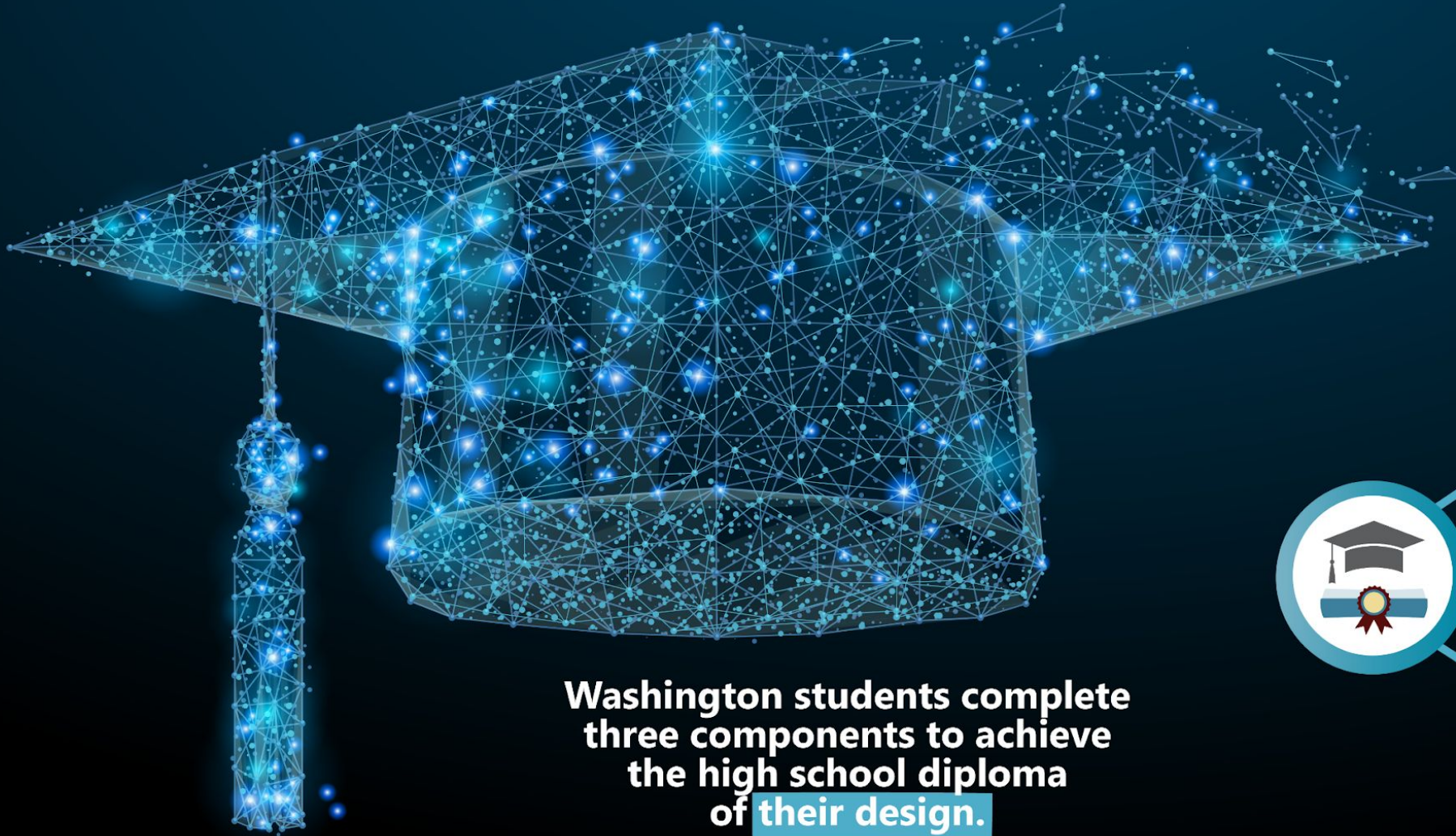
Subject Area Requirements: Core (Foundational) and Elective Credits



* Personalized Pathway Requirements (PPR) are electives in any subject that align with the student's interests and their High School and Beyond Plan. The arts and world language credits can be replaced with other electives, based on the student's plan.

Credit (Subject Area) Requirement Waiver: Restrictions on the Number and Type of Credits Waived

- WAC 180-111-050: (1) Waived credit graduation requirements are limited to the student's classes impacted by the novel coronavirus disruption. School districts may waive credits for eligible students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021:
- In addition to existing waiver authorities, school districts may waive up to two additional credits under this emergency waiver, provided that students graduate with no fewer than a total of 20 credits.
- The emergency waiver may be applied to up to two flexible or core credits, provided that no more than one credit in each core subject area is waived.



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Student Demonstration of Postsecondary Preparation

- ❖ WAC 180-111-020 (1): This individual student review may include, but is not limited to, whether the following considerations apply to that student.
 - The student has completed:
 - A graduation pathway option.
 - Activities consistent with the criteria for “Career Prep” or has participated in an approved “Career Launch” program through Career Connect Washington.
 - A preparatory career and technical education course or a course that meets the preparatory standards as defined in RCW 28A.700.030.

Student Demonstration of Postsecondary Preparation (continued)

- ❖ The student:
 - developed and practiced leadership and employability skills through a job, volunteer position, or a Career and Technical Student Organization that would enable them to advance in their chosen career field + obtained external validation.
 - is participating in an apprenticeship.
 - earned college credit in a core subject area.
 - earned an industry recognized credential.
 - completed minimum college admission standards for four-year institutions of higher education.
 - placed into a college-level math or English course.
 - completed a summer bridge program or a senior transition course.
 - completed an option permissive under RCW 28A.655.065(5)(c)(i).



School District Resolution and Plan for Implementation

School District Responsibilities: Individual Student Advising

- ❖ WAC 180-111-040(1):
 - The local education agency shall review individual student's completed and planned coursework and determine that the student was on track to graduate, as defined in WAC 180-111-020.
 - The local education agency shall demonstrate a good faith effort, as defined in WAC 180-111-020, to help the individual student meet credit-based graduation requirements through other options.
 - The local education agency shall consult with the individual student, and make a reasonable effort to consult with a parent or guardian of the student, and shall make a reasonable effort to provide information about this waiver in the preferred languages of the student, and of the parent or guardian of the student if applicable.

School District Responsibilities: Individual Student Advising and Communication with Families

- The school district shall advise the student to waive only those credit(s) that are least applicable to the student's postsecondary plans.
- The potential benefits and limitations that could result from receiving the waiver.
- The option for the individual student to decline the waiver.



School District Responsibilities: Ensuring compliance and equity

Previously the state facilitated the waiver process, tracked the formal requests, and approved or denied them. This new waiver now delegates both authority and responsibility for the process to the local school district.

As such we have established a process and a record keeping tool that complies with the state requirements. This includes,

- An analysis of every senior students' status
- Communication plan for any and all students who qualify, provided in their home language
- The creation of a panel with at least one counselor, educators with expertise in trauma-informed instruction and culturally responsive education, and if appropriate, special education, instruction for multilingual/English Language learners to review and make recommendations to the district concerning any decision to decline a waive.
- Making and noting “good faith efforts” of the district
- Ensures we follow the limitations of the waiver
- Assurance equity in administering the emergency waiver. The district shall disaggregate waiver data by student subgroups for analysis to ensure no particular group was disproportionately impacted.



Request for Approval of Resolution 2419

More Information

- SBE's web pages on [Emergency Waiver Program \(EWP\)](#) and [FAQs on Emergency Rules for the EWP](#) will be updated next week.
- Application Information will be available on Emergency Waiver Program page next week.

Contact us!

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