

## Preparing Seattle Children for College and Career

### The Issue

Many students do not graduate from high school at all or do so late. But even those who do graduate face long odds in achieving success. "The system practically guarantees that, even if students meet the minimum requirements to obtain a high school diploma, they will not be prepared for coursework at a two-year college or be in a position to be accepted to one of our public four-year institutions. The course-taking gap leads to a college-going gap, which eventually leads to a gap in earning potential. The impact falls disproportionately on low-income students and students of color."

*- Improving the Odds, College & Work Ready Agenda*

### Facts

- There were 3,435 students in the Class of 2008-2009 at Seattle Public Schools, and of these 70.1% graduated on time. A long term trend was repeated in 2009 in which significantly more than one-third of the students at three Seattle Public high schools failed to graduate on time. African American, Latino and American Indian SPS students continue to fail to graduate on time at very high rates, in the range of 50%.

*-Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
-Seattle Office for Education*

- "Core 24" is a set of credit requirements for high school graduation that provide students with a strong foundation for post high school training – information on Core 24 is attached below. Currently, among Seattle Public School students who do graduate, most don't have these baseline skills needed for college success

- Only 34% completed the Core 24 credits that prepare them for college success
- Only 24% completed the Core 24 credits with a "C" or better – a higher standard of proficiency

*-Seattle School District 2006 Cohort Study, Mary Beth Celio*

- Washington's minimum course credit requirements for high school graduation do not meet the minimum level of requirements for acceptance to a four-year baccalaureate institution. As a consequence, many high school graduates fail to meet college admission requirements.

Minimum High School Graduation Requirements	Minimum Four-Year College Entry Requirements
3 credits English	4 credits English
2 credits Math <i>(soon to be 3 credits; to be set by the State Board of Education)</i>	3 credits Math <i>(Algebra II or higher, 1 credit senior year)</i>
2 credits Science (one lab)	2 credits Science <i>(soon to be all lab, 1 credit algebra-based)</i>
2.5 credits Social Studies	3 credits Social Studies
0 credit World Language	2 credits World Language
1 credit Visual or Performing Arts	1 credit Visual or Performing Arts
2 credits Health & Fitness	0 credit Health and Fitness
1 credit Occupational Education	0 credit Occupational Education
5.5 credits Electives	N/A

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- Students who enroll in degree and certificate programs at community colleges must pass placement tests before taking college credit courses. If they do not pass the placement tests, they must take remediation classes. They pay college tuition rates for these remediation classes, but do not receive college credit for them. In 2005, more than half of Washington state students at community colleges (52%) were placed in remedial classes. Remediation is also a problem at some of our four-year colleges which report that 20% to 25%+ of freshman need such classes (EWU and CWU in 2006).

*-Improving the Odds, College & Work Ready Agenda*

- Remediation rates for students of color are especially high. In a sample of Washington state high schools, only 28% - 31% of Latino, Native American and African American students completed the courses needed to be considered for acceptance to a public four-year college in the Class of 2005. These rates compare to 42% for white students and 58% for Asian American students.

*-Improving the Odds, College & Work Ready Agenda*

- Certainly, many jobs that pay an income sufficient to support a family require more than a high school education. In 2010, the minimum income to support a family of four in King County is well over \$50,000. Most workers in jobs that pay that well have at least some college or a bachelor's degree. It is projected that by 2018, 67% of all jobs in Washington state will require a post-secondary education.

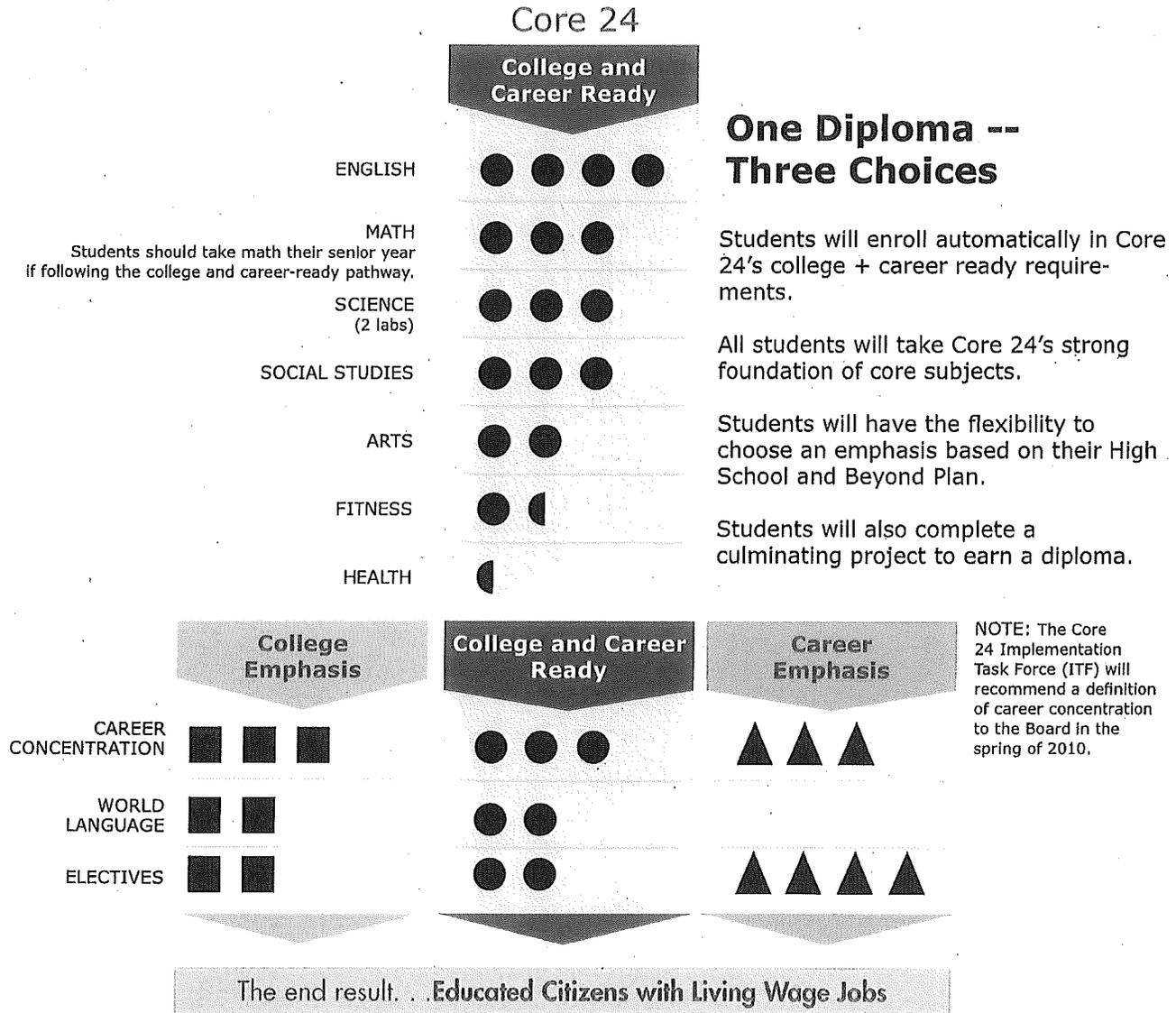
*-Improving the Odds, College & Work Ready Agenda*

*-Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce*

# Opening Doors with Core 24

2010.01.25

**What is Core 24?** Core 24 is the new set of credit requirements for high school graduation being considered by the Washington State Board of Education. Core 24 will require students to develop a high school and beyond plan and choose courses to help them achieve their goals. Core 24 requirements will provide students with a strong academic foundation, and the flexibility to prepare them for whatever path they choose—whether that's the workforce, an apprenticeship in the trades, or a community or four-year college.



NOTE: The Core 24 Implementation Task Force (ITF) will recommend a definition of career concentration to the Board in the spring of 2010.

### Core 24 = Flexibility

**CROSS CREDITING:** Where appropriate, career and technical education-equivalent courses may be substituted.

**THIRD MATH CREDIT:** After completing algebra I and geometry, a student may elect a third rigorous, high school level math credit to replace algebra II/integrated math III with a math course that furthers their career path defined in the high school and beyond plan.

**THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CONNECTION:** Some requirements may be satisfied in middle school.

**WAIVERS:** Fitness credits can be waived as provided by state law.