



# Core 24 – The Framework of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education

The Quality Education Council  
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# The Purpose of a Meaningful High School Diploma

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The purpose of the 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...

*State Board of Education, January 2008*

# New Core 24 Requirements

The Core 24 graduation requirements framework emerged in March of 2008 and was adopted in July 2008



after almost two years of State Board of Education (SBE) research and discussion, informed by hundreds of public comments.

# The Core 24 Framework

## THE FOUNDATION

ENGLISH	4
MATH	3
SCIENCES	3
SOCIAL STUDIES	3
ARTS	2
FITNESS	1.5
HEALTH	.5
CAREERCONCENTRATION	3

20CREDITS

But wait a minute! Not all students go to college, so how does Core 24 meet their needs?

## PERSONALIZED PATHWAYS

### COLLEGE + CAREER

Language	0-2*
Elective	2-4*
Culminating Project	0
H.S. and Beyond Plan	0

\*Credits will vary depending on students' post high school goals, as expressed in their high school and beyond plan.

The end result. . .  
Educated Citizens with Living Wage Jobs.

# Core 24 – Empowering Success

Core 24 is a flexible framework designed to equip all students with the skills and knowledge needed to pursue postsecondary education and employment.



# Core 24 Keeps All Doors Open

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- Core 24 ensures that all students by default are enrolled in a college/career ready pathway.
- Core 24 keeps doors open to all future pathways for all students.
- Core 24's breadth and depth equip students for the next step beyond high school.
- Core 24's flexibility allows for multiple pathways to a diploma.

# Breadth, Depth, and Alignment

Subject	Current 20 Credits	Core 24 College & Career	HECB Minimum Admission Requirements
English	3.0	4.0	4.0
Math	3.0	3.0 (1 in senior year)	3.0 (1 in senior year)
Science	2.0 (1 lab)	3.0 (2 lab)	2.0 (2 lab)
Social Studies	2.5	3.0	3.0
Fitness	1.5	1.5	
Health	.5	.5	
Arts	1.0	2.0	1.0
Career Concentration	1.0	3.0	
World Language	0	2.0	2.0
Electives	5.5	2.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>15.0</b>

# Core 24 and ESHB 226 I

The 2009 Legislature redefined basic education to include the opportunity to earn 24 credits for graduation.



# Is Core 24 Just College Prep? What About Those Not Going To College?

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College readiness is not limited to just being prepared to enter a four-year university.

*College encompasses many forms of education after high school, including certificate and credential programs, two-year degrees from community or technical colleges, rigorous apprenticeship programs and four year degrees from baccalaureate institutions.*

College Work Ready Agenda, Improving the Odds: Preparing Washington Students for Family Wage Jobs, 2008.

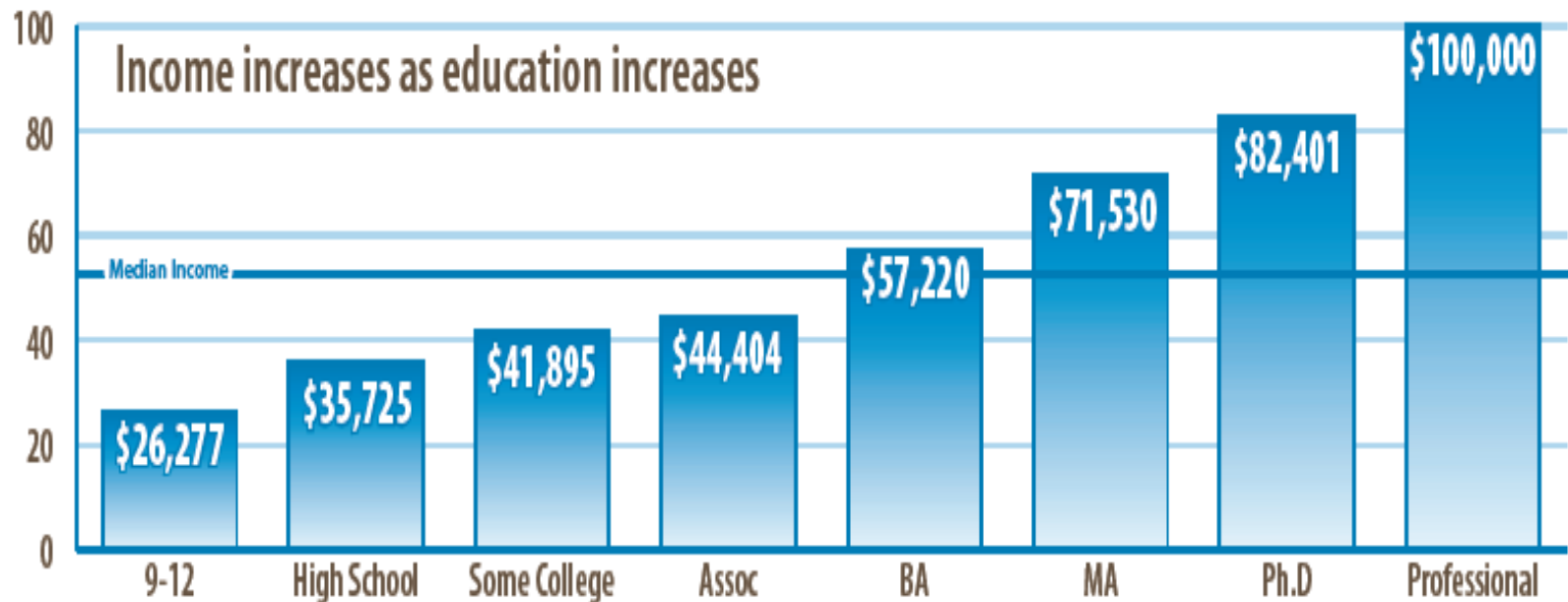
# Are Washington's High School Students Graduating College-Ready?

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- 53 percent of community and technical college students who graduated from high school in 2007 took pre-college (also known as remedial) classes in 2007-08.
- 46 percent of community and technical college students who graduated from high school in 2007 took pre-college math courses.

Source: SBCTC – Role of pre-college education for recent high school graduates attending Washington community and technical colleges. March 2009.

# What is the Potential Financial Impact of Core 24 on Students?



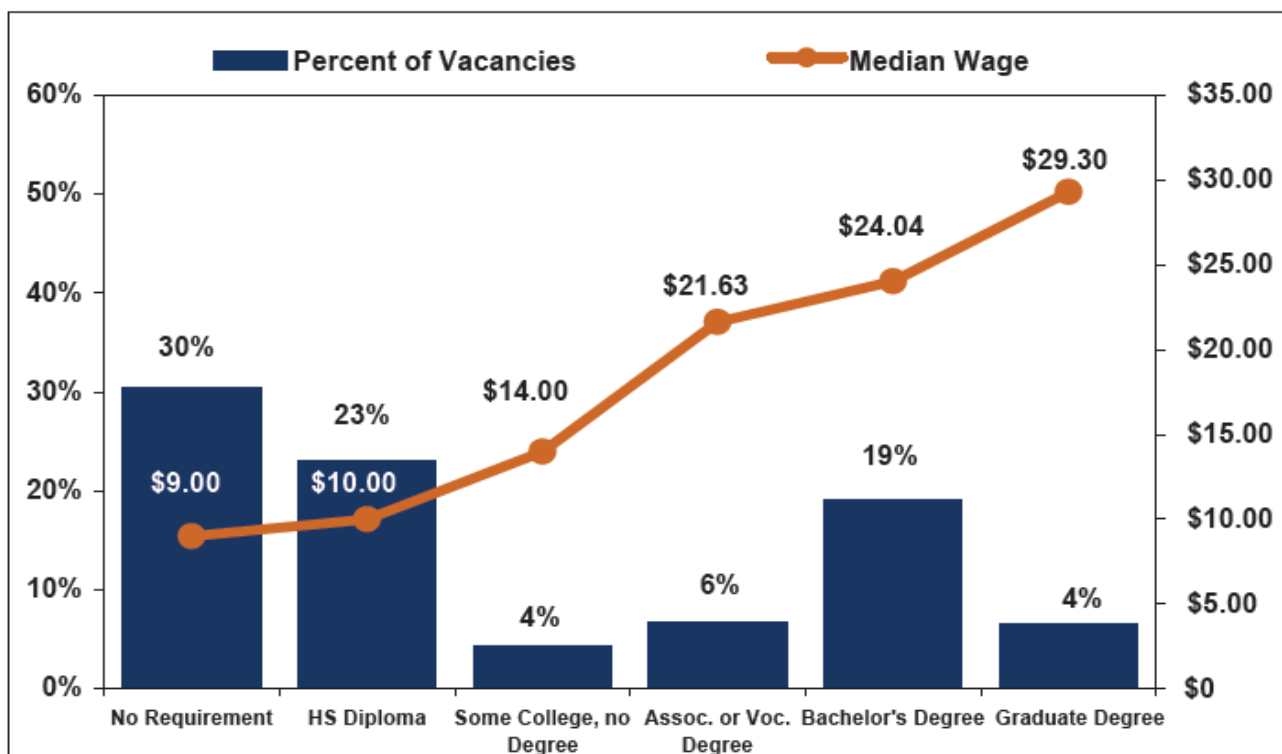
Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, "Money Income of Household, Families, and Persons in the United States," "Income, Poverty, and Valuation of Noncash Benefits," various years; and Series P-60, "Money Income in the United States," various years. From *Digest of Education Statistics 2005*.

# Core 24 – Economic Impact

Vacancies by Education and Wage

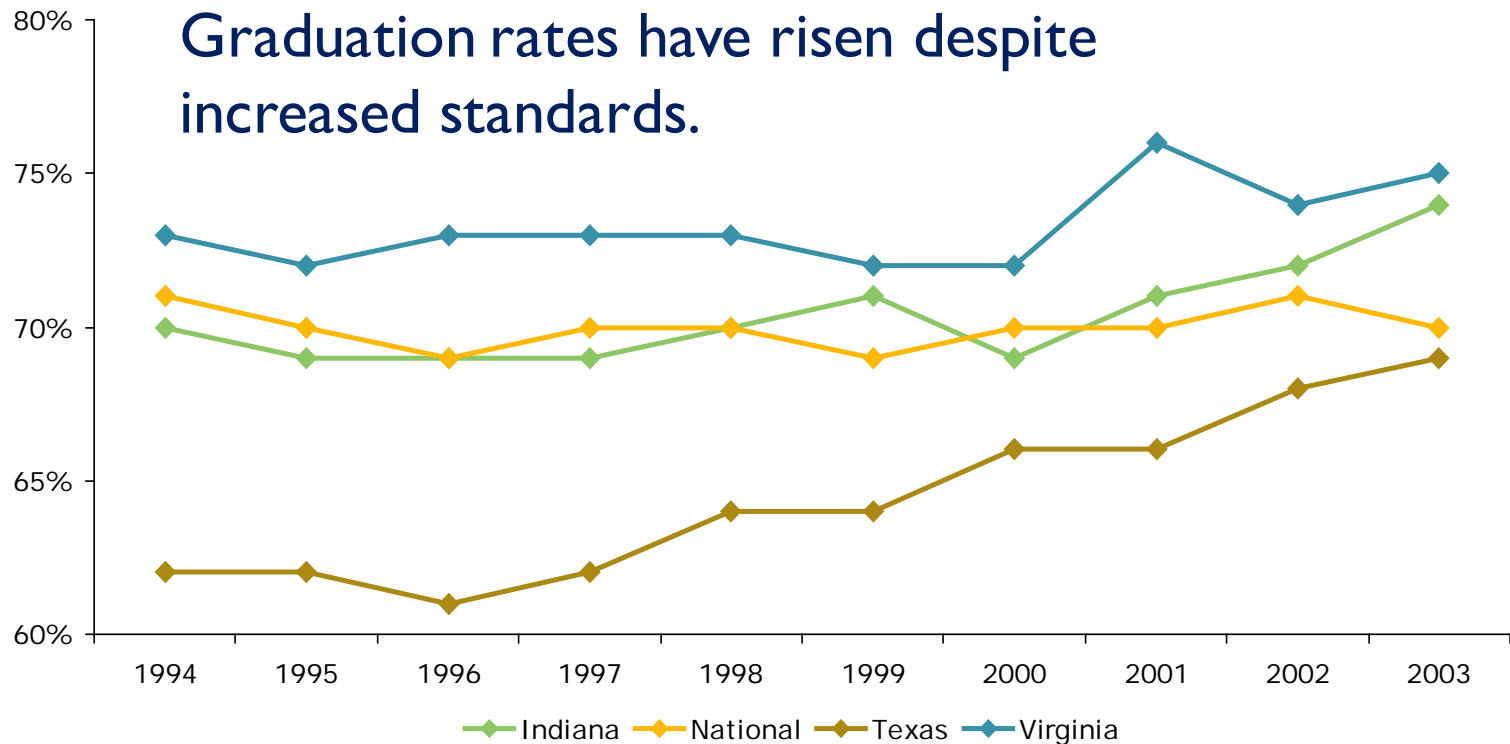
Washington State, Spring 2009

Source: LMEA/Employment Security Department



*Note: The chart does not include non-response and other for educational categories. Because of this the percentage will not add up to 100 percent.*

# Can Our Students Handle High Expectations?



Sources: Greene, Jay P. *Leaving Boys Behind: Public High School Graduation Rates*, Manhattan Institute, Civic Report No. 48, April 2006; Greene, Jay P. *Public High School Graduation and College-Readiness Rates: 1991–2002*, Manhattan Institute, Education Working Paper No. 8, February 2005.

# Do More Credits Translate to a Better Education?

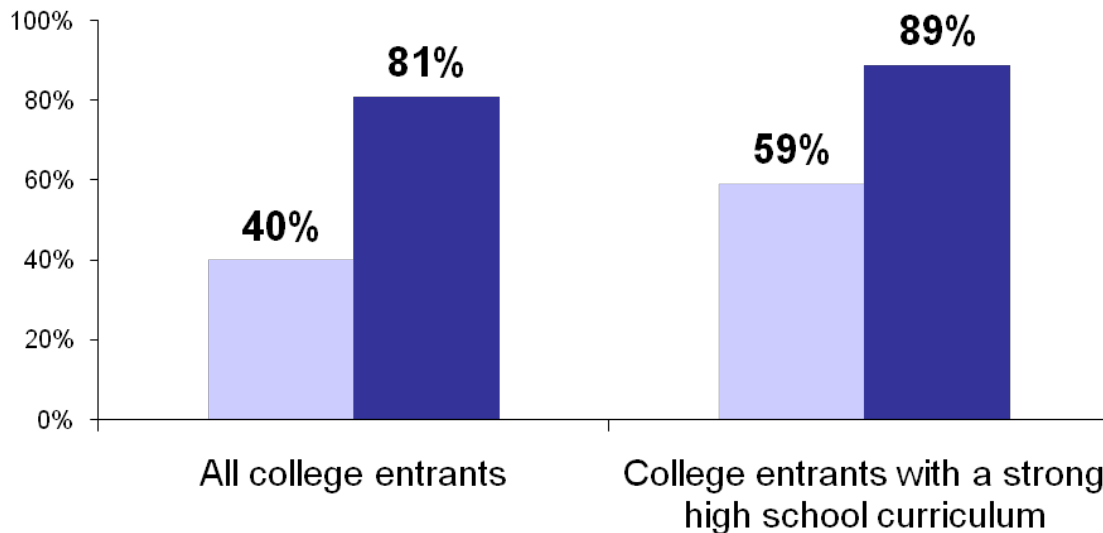
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No!

- Core 24 is simply a framework ...one that creates the 'opportunity' for a personalized and well-rounded 21<sup>st</sup> century education.
- The strength of that structure depends entirely on the quality of instruction, resources, and standards-based rigor of the coursework.

# What Impact Does Secondary Rigor Have on Postsecondary Success?

Percentage of students completing a bachelor's degree



Source: Adelman, Clifford. *The Toolbox Revisited*, U.S. Department of Education, 2006. Adapted from The Education Trust.

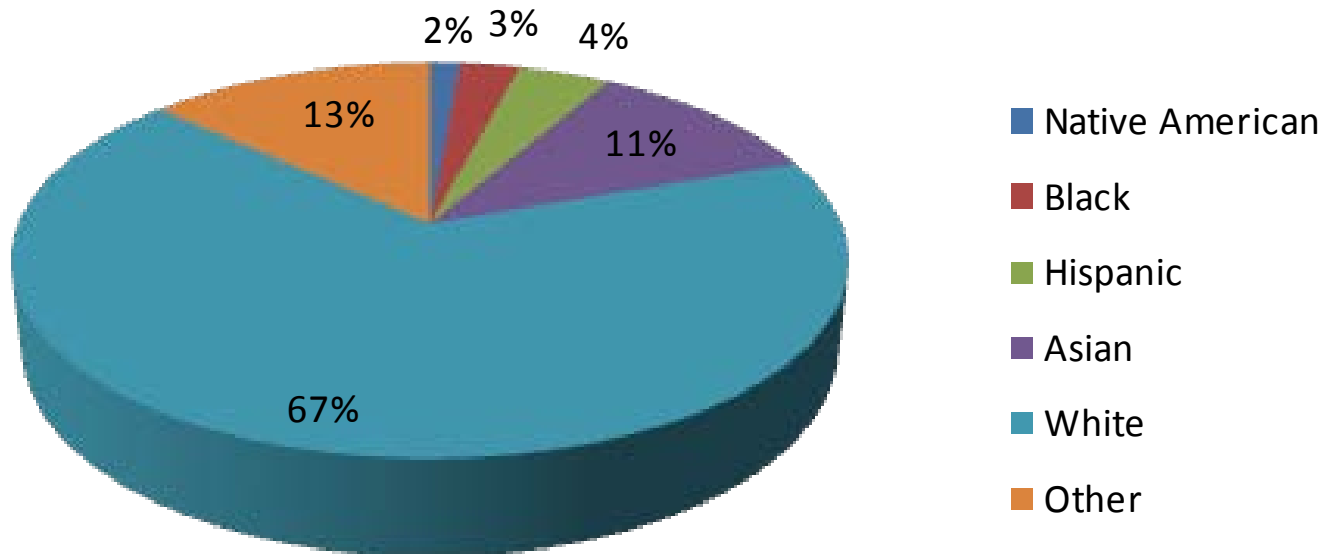
■ Low socioeconomic status  
■ High socioeconomic status

\* Rigorous curriculum is defined as the top 40 percent of high school curriculum and the highest high school mathematics above Algebra II.

Note: These numbers reflect outcomes for high school graduates who enter four-year institutions directly from high school.

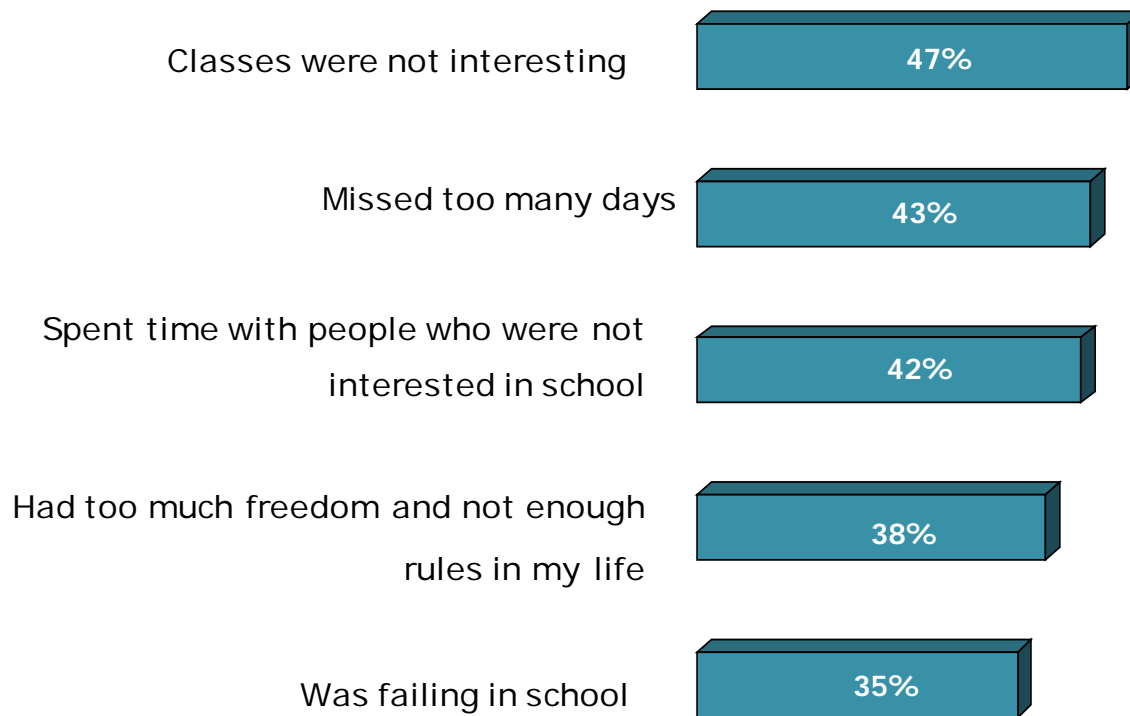
# How Does the Achievement Gap Affect Postsecondary Attainment?

## 4 Year College Degrees Attained National Data -2006-2007



Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (U.S. Department of Education).

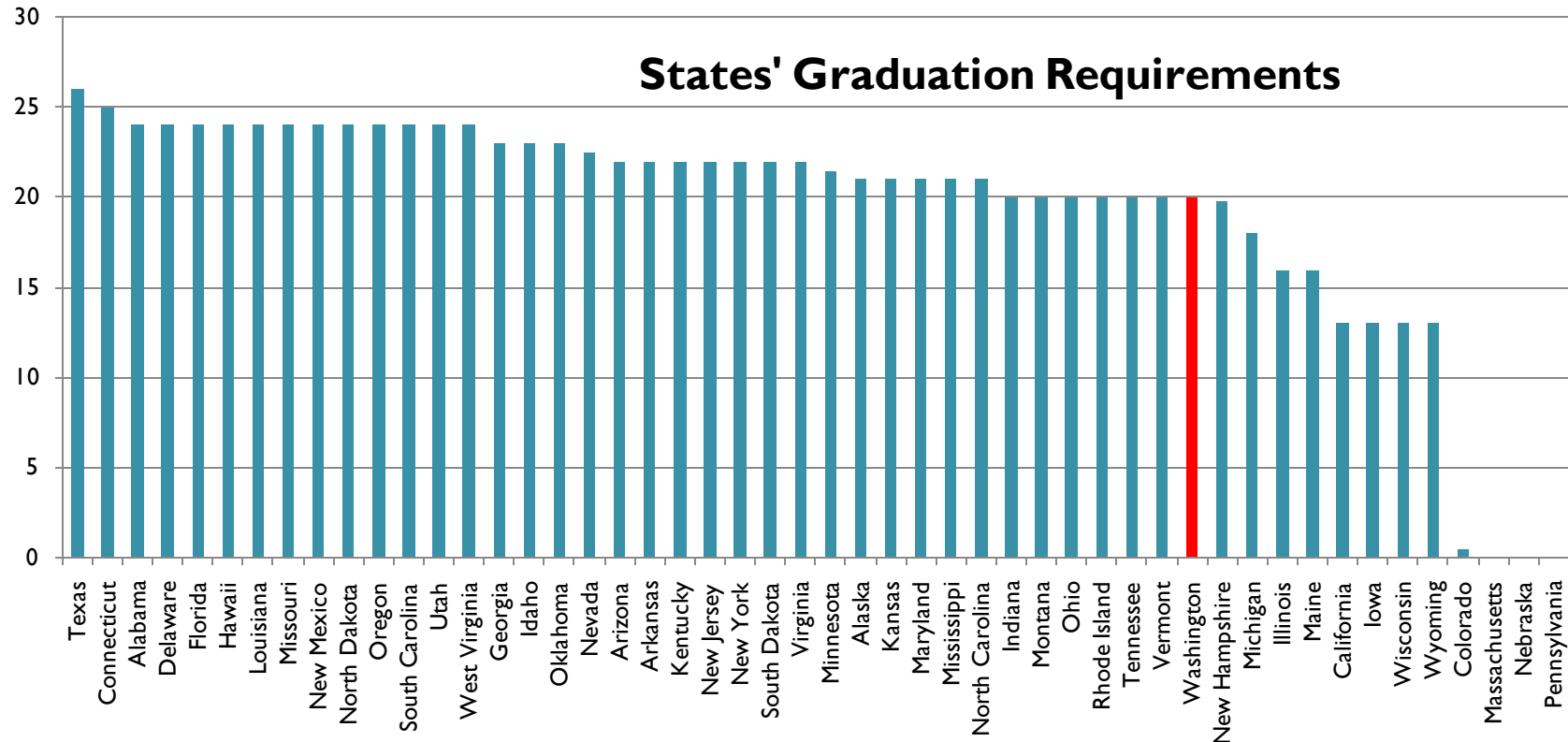
# Will Core 24 Increase Dropouts?



Top five reasons dropouts identify as major factors for leaving school.

Source: Civic Enterprises, *The Silent Epidemic: Perspectives of High School Dropouts*, 2006.

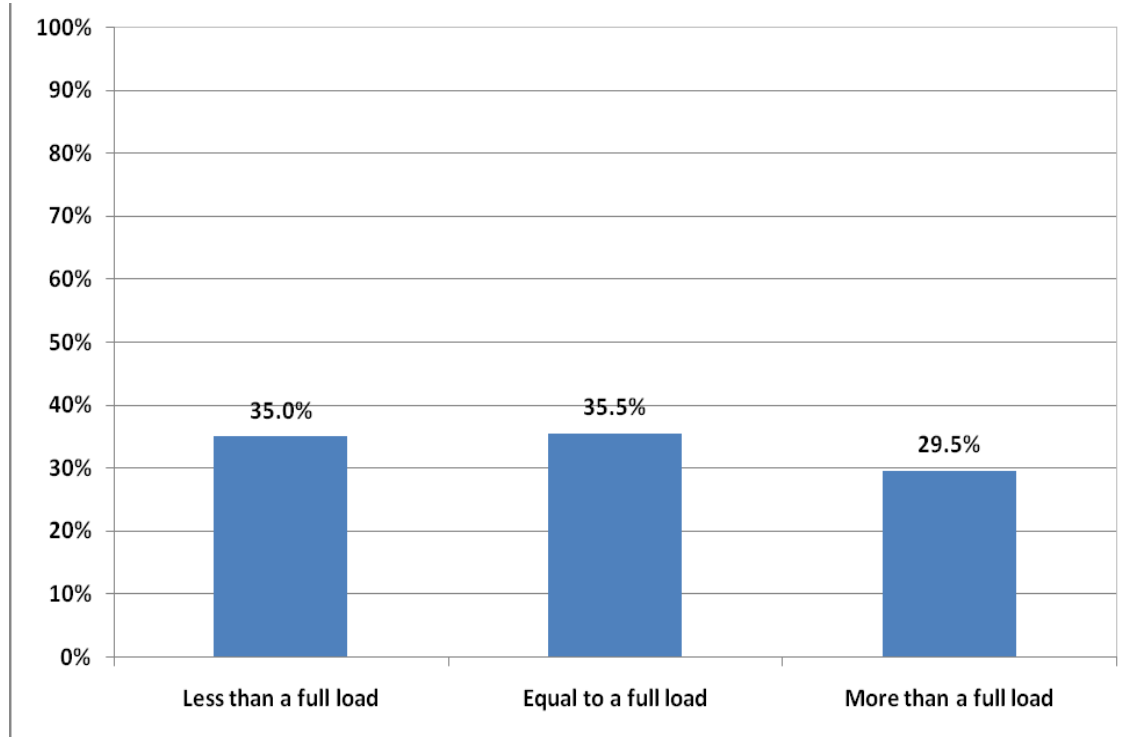
# Don't Our Graduation Requirements Already Ask a lot of Students?



Source: Education Commission of the States Standard High School Graduation Requirements Database. 2008. Note: Includes requirements that have been adopted and will be in effect for a graduating class in 2009 and beyond e.g., Washington's 20 credit graduation requirement will be in effect for the graduating class of 2013. States in yellow are global challenge states. Massachusetts is also a global challenge state but has no state-mandated requirements.

# Do Students Have Room in Their Schedules for Additional Requirements?

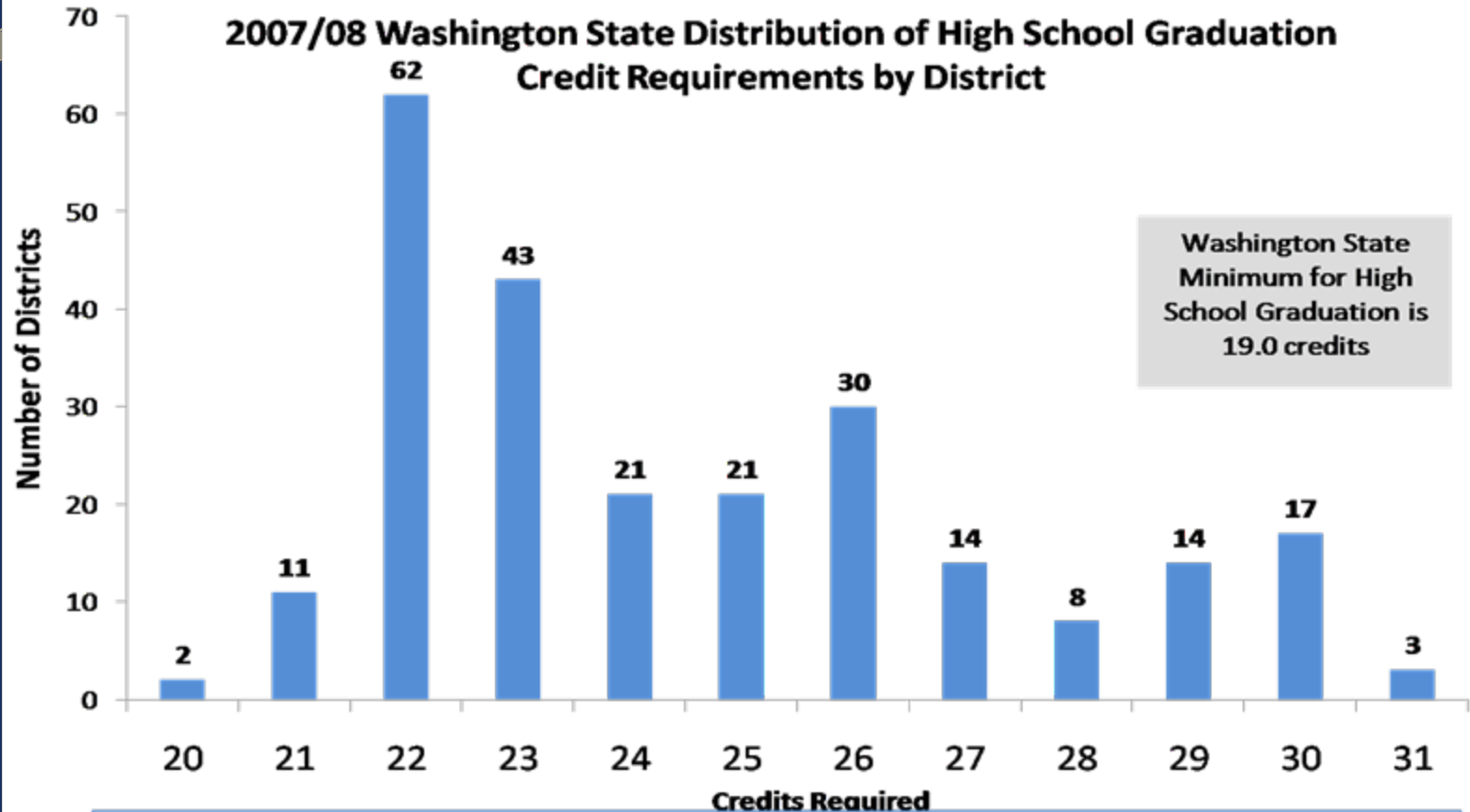
## Course Loads of 2008 Seniors



Berc Transcript Study - 2008

This study found room in students' schedules for more stringent requirements, including more credits and more advanced courses. In fact, 35% of the graduating seniors took less than a full load of credits.

# Isn't the Move to 24 credits a Huge Leap? Will Schools be Ready?



»Credits have been rounded to the nearest whole credit except where indicated.

Source: Washington State Board of Education, 2007

# The Core 24 Implementation Task Force

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- Twenty education practitioners.
  - Depth and diversity of experiences from the field are represented.
- Purpose: to consider Core 24 implementation issues.
  - The Task Force will provide recommendations to SBE in spring 2010.

# ITF Considerations (Slide 1 of 2)

- How do you phase in a 24 credit graduation requirement?
- What flexibility, if any, is needed to make Core 24 requirements work for all students?



# ITF Considerations (Slide 2 of 2)

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- How might schools utilize a competency-based credit?
- What models of scheduling approaches are successful for schools already requiring 24 credits?
- How can we provide a more intensive college- or career-ready set of requirements?
- What can we do in middle school to best prepare students for success in high school?

# Thinking Outside the Box: Building Flexibility

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- Consider a “2 for 1” policy that enables students to earn 1 credit for a Career and Technical Education course-equivalent class, but satisfy two Core 24 requirements.
- Consider ways for students to meet a limited number of high school requirements in middle school.
- Consider eliminating the time-based definition of a credit to emphasize competency-based learning, over seat-time learning.

# Building Flexibility: World Language Competency

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- SBE policy allows districts to award credit based on competency—but few do
- SBE and OSPI are working with a K-12/Higher Education World Languages Advisory Group to recommend ways to establish competency-based credit for students who acquire another language outside of the classroom
- SBE will work with WSSDA to draft sample procedures for districts

# Core 24 SBE Timelines

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- May 2010 – Review ITF recommendations and consider policy changes.
- Fall 2010 – Review draft Core 24 graduation requirement rules.
- Winter 2011 – Forward proposed Core 24 graduation requirements to the legislature.
- Summer 2011 – SBE adopts Core 24 graduation requirement rules.

# Core 24 Funding Timelines

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- 2011 – Planning funds for middle school and counseling.
- 2012 – Core 24 early adopters for class of 2016.
- 2013 – Core 24 in all districts for the class of 2017. This will include full implementation including support for struggling students.

# Core 24 – Moving Forward

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- Core 24 provides an essential roadmap for the QEC in the plan for phasing in the 24 credit graduation requirement.
- Core 24 provides our students with the breadth and depth of knowledge/skills necessary for postsecondary training/education/careers.
- Core 24 provides an excellent starting point for meeting President Obama's goal of making America #1 in postsecondary attainment.

# Quick SBE Accountability Update

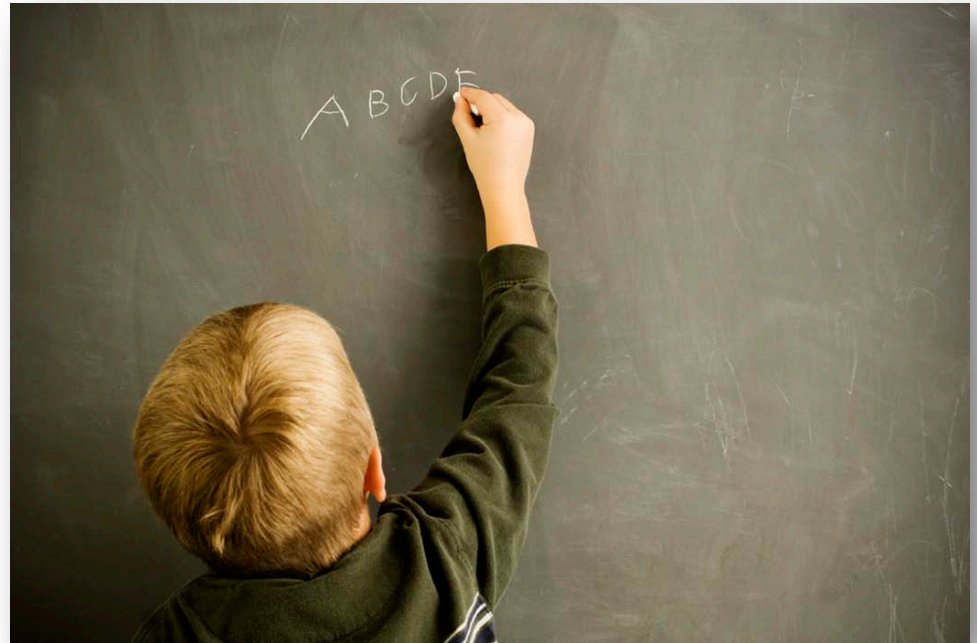
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- ESHB 2261 acknowledged the work of SBE in its creation of a new Accountability Framework to create an excellent and equitable education for all students through continuous school improvement.
- SBE's Accountability Framework ensures a return of investment for taxpayer dollars through addressing low achieving schools.

A report is due to the Legislature December 1.

# A Legislative Task

SBE will ask the 2010 Legislature to move from a solely voluntary system of improving persistently low achieving schools to one that includes a mandatory system in a very limited number of cases, beginning in 2010.



# For More Information

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Go to the SBE website:

<http://www.sbe.wa.gov>

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