



State Board of Education Resolution
To Adopt the High School Graduation Requirements Task Force Report
SR18-4

WHEREAS, District of Columbia Official Code § 38-2652 requires State Board of Education approval of high school graduation requirements in DC Municipal Regulations Title 5-A, Chapter 22;

WHEREAS, increases to the high school graduation rates in the District over the last several years have recently come under heavy scrutiny;

WHEREAS, the six-year college graduation rate for DC students was 23% in 2012;

WHEREAS, over 80% of DC graduates who enroll at the University of the District of Columbia take one or more remedial courses;

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education convened a cross-city, representative task force of 23 students, teachers, principals, parents, traditional and charter public school representatives, representatives from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, ward education advocates, teacher's union members, special education advocates, workforce development representatives, and higher education professionals to examine whether the graduation requirements could be updated to improve student preparedness;

WHEREAS, task force members started their inquiry with three questions:

1. How do DC's graduation requirements affect student preparedness for college and careers?
2. How do DC's requirements and approach for awarding a high school diploma compare with those of other states?
3. How do the graduation requirements measure and recognize student proficiency on DC's learning standards?

WHEREAS, to answer those questions, task force members gathered feedback from their communities, conducted focus group with current and graduated District high school students, gathered information from local and national experts on high school graduation, analyzed reports about best practices in graduation requirements, and shared their expertise with one another;

WHEREAS, the task force indicated that the purpose of the graduation requirements should be to prepare students to succeed in the 21st century careers of their choice and lead civically engaged lives;

WHEREAS, to achieve that purpose, the task force submitted to the State Board a report making the following recommendations for changes to the District's high school graduation requirements:





1. Provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate they have mastered course content for world language and mathematics;
2. Reduce the number of required community service hours from 100 to 50;
3. Create a personalized learning plan for each public school student in the District, and revisit this plan in elementary, middle, and high school to ensure the student is on track to graduate; and,

WHEREAS, these recommendations reflect the consensus of the members of the task force.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the DC State Board of Education adopts the High School Graduation Requirements Task Force's report in its entirety, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DC State Board of Education advises the State Superintendent to review the report and direct her staff to expeditiously begin the process to develop regulations based upon the report of the task force.

Date Adopted: 5/16/18 Signed: *Aren L. Williams*

