

Homeschooling the High Schooler

This Workshop is designed to answer questions that parents and students might have when considering home schooling during the high school years. North Atlantic Regional High School is an accredited school that provides high school consultation and accredited transcripts for independent learners. The guidelines presented in this workshop have been developed by the experienced staff at NARHS.

A homeschooler is defined as a student age 14, who has become able to mentally process material that is written for grades 9 and higher.

HOMESCHOOL LAWS OF WASHINGTON STATE

Parents qualify to homeschool in the state of Washington in 3 ways:

1. by having earned 45 college credits,
2. or by having taken a 10-hour parent qualifying course (See the website for Washington Homeschool Organization – www.washhomeschool.com to find those online courses)
3. or by working under a certified teacher – meeting once a week together.

Once qualified, parents must file yearly an “Intent to Homeschool” form with their school district administration office.

The rest of this information will include answers to these questions:

What are graduation requirements?

What is a high school credit?

What grading scale can be used?

What needs to be on the high school transcript?

Where is their help on curriculum selection?

How can a homeschool transcript be made easily accepted by colleges and other high schools?

SETTING UP THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A high schooler’s course of study is determined by the graduation requirements which involve categories of study that need to be achieved over the course of the high school career. The parent and student can set up their own, or those of the state may be selected.

For students graduating in the state of Washington in 2021, these are the current graduation requirements:

Subject	Number of Credits	Additional Information
English	4	

Subject	Number of Credits	Additional Information
Math	3	Algebra 1 or Integrated Math 1 Geometry or Integrated Math 2 A 3 rd credit of math*
Science	3	At least two lab A 3 rd credit of science*
Social Studies	3	1.0 U.S. History and Government .5 Contemporary World History, Geography, and Problems .5 credits of Civics 1.0 credits of Social Studies Elective (may include .5 credits of a second semester of Contemporary World History or the equivalent)
Arts	2	Performing or visual arts 1 credit may be a Personalized Pathway Requirements**
World Language	2	Both credits may be a Personalized Pathway Requirements**
Health and Fitness	2	.5 credits of Health 1.5 credits of Fitness Students must earn credit for physical education unless excused per RCW 28A.230.050
Career and Technical Education	1	May be an Occupational Education course

Subject	Number of Credits	Additional Information
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that meets the definition of an exploratory course as described in the [CTE program standards](#)

Electives	4	
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*The 3rd credit of science and the 3rd credit of math are chosen by the student based on the student's interest and High School and Beyond Plan, and approved by the parent or guardian.

Since the parent qualifies to set up a home school, such an arrangement allows the parent to establish individualized graduation credit goals.

Under each of these categories are many classes to choose from. We will list a few for each. The NARHS handbook lists extensive courses under each category. For that handbook, go to www.narhs.org and click on “downloads”.

The category “**English**” includes literature, writing, grammar, spelling, and public speaking.

Mathematics includes algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, business math, personal finance.

Social Studies is a broad category that includes among others history of all eras and locations, geography, world problems, economics, government and psychology.

World Languages include those of foreign countries and cultures as well as American Sign Language.

Science is another extensive category which includes the familiar biology, chemistry and physics but also astronomy, geology, genetics and a host of other topics.

Arts has three components – theater / drama, music, and visual arts. Many crafts and a wide variety of musical activities can be tucked under this awning.

Physical Education has many components to it ranging from physical activity to the study of sports rules.

Health options are more limited. They involve studies in physical and mental well-being as well as safety rules and first aid.

WHAT IS A HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT?

Simply stated, a credit is a year's worth of work. There are two kinds of credits:

1. Textbook credits

To earn a textbook credit, study the book exactly as it is written with all exercises and tests completed. Some textbooks are regarded as half-credit and some are intended to be a full year of study. The textbook **publisher** is the one that makes this decision on credit amount.

2. Self-designed credits

These types of credits are earned by using a variety of resources, not just textbooks. However, partial excerpts from textbooks can be used as well. Physical education, drama, music study and visual arts typically fall into the self-designed category. History, science, language arts and occasionally math can be developed as self-designed courses. In order to create a self-designed course that qualifies for credit – here is the process:

- Write a course description that explains the activity and/or learning goals of the course. List the books and resources used to learn the material.
- Log the hours of student study.
80-120+ hours = 1 full credit, 60-90+ hours = .75 credit, 40-60+ hours = .5 credit, 20-30+ hours = .25 credit.

Please note: it is not recommended to grant more than 1 credit per course.

- Determine a method of grading the course.
A NARHS publication, called The Resource Advisor, is available for purchase that provides grading guidelines, textbook selections, credit awarding information. Call the office to purchase this book 1-800-882-2828 or go to the website to order www.narhs.org

GRADING SCALE

Courses completed must be listed on a transcript with the course title, credit amount awarded and the grade earned. The grade can be listed as a percentage, a letter or a g.p.a. Here is a grade scale offered for reference. Not all schools use the same grade scale.

A:	100-94	(4.0)	
A-:	93-90	(3.67)	
B+:	89-87	(3.33)	
B:	86-83	(3.0)	
B-:	82-80	(2.67)	
C+:	79-77	(2.33)	
C:	76-73	(2.0)	
C-:	72-70	(1.67)	
D+:	69-67	(1.33)	
D:	66-63	(1.0)	
D-:	62-60	(.67)	
F:	59 & below	(0)	no credit awarded

TRANSCRIPT

A transcript is a report of all the classes that a student has taken over the high school career. The essential information to include are these four:

- the courses taken,
- the graduation requirements met,
- grades earned and
- credits awarded.

The homeschool transcript can be as simple or detailed as you wish. Some list activities, honors, and achievements on the transcript. Others develop a student resume that accompanies the transcript.

The benefits of going through North Atlantic Regional High School for transcript work are numerous:

1. NARHS validates all the grades and credits as a second party witness.

2. Regional accreditation status eases college admission and also transfer of credit into other high schools.
3. An assigned NARHS advisors works alongside parents and students throughout the high school career guiding curriculum choices, grading questions, and any other question that emerges along the way.
4. The NARHS advisors provides accountability outside the home. For the student, there is someone else to answer to besides the parent.
5. NARHS archives the student transcripts and sends them out to other schools and colleges upon request.

NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MINIMUM GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The limited NARHS graduation requirements serve as a starting place for the development of a course of study. 17.5 credits is the minimum for graduation, but many more could and should be added in order to qualify for placement in secondary institution or career studies.

Students are allowed the flexibility of arranging credits in the categories that best prepare them for the next leg of their study journey.

Language Arts	4
Mathematics	2
Social Studies	1
U.S. History	1
Science (include 1 lab)	2
Fine Arts	1
Computer Skills	.5
Physical Education	1
Health and Fitness	.5
Electives	4.5

SAVE ALL HIGH SCHOOL WORK

Typically, a student works on 6-7 high school credits each year.

As the student completes each year of study, it is important to keep all work in perhaps a portfolio case along with the transcript of grades and credits. This serves as the “evidence” of accomplishment, along with yearly test scores.

Many home school students enrich their studies with courses from the public school, community classes, volunteer and leadership experience, missionary trips, and maybe even a focus of study that leads to a level of expertise. Homeschooling allows the time to engage in a host of activities.

For a review of the information in this workshop, go to the NARHS website to download a script of this workshop. On there, you will find the parent's handbook which has extensive information on how to conduct the high school course of study. For information about obtaining the assistance of a NARHS advisor to help guide you through the hurdles, call the office at 1-800-882-2828.