

Pathways to a High School Diploma

Students enrolled in Community College for Running Start and High School Completion Programs

There are many pathways for students to obtain their high school diploma. In 2009, the state Legislature passed **Substitute House Bill 1758**, which allows students earning an associates degree from a community or technical college to earn a high school diploma, even if they have not otherwise met the high school graduation requirements (credits, state assessments, high school and beyond plan and culminating project). Below are scenarios OSPI has identified in regards to students in Running Start and High School Completion Programs, how they obtain a diploma and who issues it.

- 1) **Running Start + High School Graduation Requirements → High School issues diploma**
 - Student is enrolled in high school and meets all graduation requirements; takes courses at a community or technical college; high school issues diploma and codes them G0 (graduated)

- 2) **Previously or Currently in Running Start + Associates degree → Community or Technical College issues diploma**
 - Student is enrolled in high school; community or technical college issues associates degree and HS diploma; when high school learns of associates degree attainment at community or technical college, the high school will code them GA (graduated via associates degree)

- 3) **No Longer in Running Start + Later Associates degree (before age 21) → Community or Technical College issues diploma**
 - Student is enrolled in high school; community or technical college issues associates degree and HS diploma; when high school learns of associates degree attainment at community or technical college, the high school will code them GA (graduated via associates degree)
 - If no longer enrolled in HS, student's exit status remains unchanged from when they left

- 4) **Never in Running Start + Later Associates degree (before age 21) → Community or Technical College not authorized to issue diploma**
 - If enrolled in high school, student continues working toward requirements until they exit
 - If no longer enrolled in HS, student's exit status remains unchanged from when they left
 - Student can earn diploma by enrolling in HS Completion Program at comm/tech college

- 5) **Later Associates degree (after age 21) → Community or Technical College issues diploma**
 - Exit status remains unchanged from when student left high school

- 6) **High School Completion Program at Community or Technical College + HS Graduation Requirements → Community or Technical College issues diploma**
 - Student is enrolled in High School Completion Program at community or technical college and original high school codes student as T0 (transfer); when student finishes all high school graduation requirements, community or technical college issues diploma

