



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 63
[2013 Senate Bill 51]

**High School Mathematics
and Science Credits**

Wisconsin Act 63 increases the number of credits in mathematics and science that are required to obtain a high school diploma and requires certain courses to be counted as mathematics and science credits.

CURRENT LAW

For pupils graduating in the 2013-14 to 2015-16 school years, a school board may not grant a high school diploma unless the pupil has earned all of the following minimum credits in the high school grades:

- Four credits of English.
- Three credits of social studies.
- Two credits of mathematics.
- Two credits of science.
- One and one-half credits of physical education.

Current law also requires the completion of one-half credit of health education in grades seven to 12 to earn a high school diploma.

A school board must award a student a science credit for successfully completing in the high school grades each course in agriculture that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has determined qualifies as science according to the criteria established by DPI.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

One East Main Street, Suite 401 • P.O. Box 2536 • Madison, WI 53701-2536
(608) 266-1304 • Fax: (608) 266-3830 • Email: leg.council@legis.wisconsin.gov
<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>

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2013 WISCONSIN ACT 63

Act 63 increases the minimum credits in mathematics and science to three.

The Act requires a school board to award a pupil up to one mathematics credit for successfully completing a course in computer sciences that DPI has determined qualifies as computer sciences according to criteria established by DPI. The Act also requires a school board to award a pupil who is a career and technical education concentrator* one mathematics credit for successfully completing in the high school grades a career and technical education course that the school board determines satisfies a mathematics requirement. In addition, a school board must award one science credit to a career and technical education concentrator for a career and technical education course that the school board determines satisfies a science requirement.

Effective date: Act 63 took effect on December 13, 2013, and first applies to a high school diploma granted in the 2016-17 school year.

Prepared by: Anne Sappenfield, Principal Attorney

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AS:jb;ksm

*According to DPI, a career and technical education concentrator is a high school student who has earned two high school credits in technical education and is working towards a third credit in technical education.