Responses to questions concerning high school graduation requirements  
(as of 1/30/2017 at 1:00 p.m.)

**My school is:**  
- Urban: 21%  
- Suburban: 59.7%  
- Rural: 17.7%  
- Other: 0%  

(62 responses)

Is your school currently offering an educational program that allows students to meet the graduation requirements defined in statute (25 credits of courses outlined for students in class 2021)?  
(62 responses)

- Yes: 45.2%  
- No: 54.8%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Student Population</th>
<th>Demographics of Student Body (estimated are free)</th>
<th>If your school currently meeting mandate of 25 credits?</th>
<th>Briefly describe changes that you have made to date to meet the requirements (staffing, curricula, electives, etc.)</th>
<th>What concerns you and your school facing/anticipating if the state mandate remains in effect?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural 380</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Capstone program always been graduation requirement. Now also carry a credit so we achieved the 25 credits with no changes other than listing the capstone different.</td>
<td>Studenting for elective courses</td>
<td>The effect that additional core requirements will have on elective areas and PE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban 575</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Created an 8 period day for students to have the opportunity to take more credits. Presently at 24 need to move to 24.</td>
<td>Math success, SPED population not meeting requirements</td>
<td>Funding for FTE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban 700</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>We are set to finalize our next BOE meeting increased credit requirements. We have added 1 math credit, as well as a Capstone project. We had to reduce PE by half a credit. We increased Health by .17 credits.</td>
<td>We plan on switching to a block schedule for the 2018 school year, this will allow us to meet the needs for all students and the 25 credits. Currently we offer a 7 period day and the majority of our students do graduate with more than 25 credits but only 21 are required.</td>
<td>We'll need to reduce faculty in those very same areas, due to fiscal constraints.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural 478</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>65% Anglo-4% Majority Male/Female even</td>
<td>We figured it out - all set for next year</td>
<td>Math success, SPED population not meeting requirements</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban 610</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Added Multiple elective teachers over the last 6 years.</td>
<td>We added additional courses (Financial literacy and others) to raise our credit requirements. Currently we have a 25 credit minimum to graduate. This has taken a toll on the school budget as it has forced our school district to have additional staff to meet the requirements</td>
<td>We'll need to reduce faculty in those very same areas, due to fiscal constraints.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban 1550</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Starting with the class of 2020, we will increase graduation credits from 22 to 24. We will need to hire an additional science and math teacher.</td>
<td>We plan on switching to a block schedule for the 2018 school year, this will allow us to meet the needs for all students and the 25 credits. Currently we offer a 7 period day and the majority of our students do graduate with more than 25 credits but only 21 are required.</td>
<td>We'll need to reduce faculty in those very same areas, due to fiscal constraints.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban 1238</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Hiring of a computer teacher to meet graduation requirements.</td>
<td>This would be a great fiscal hardship. We will need to hire more teachers due to the increased sections of math, science and PE. This would also take electives away from students. This would negatively affect our graduation numbers also. Students that are taking classes that they don't want could also lead to more disciplinary issues.</td>
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<td>Suburban 533</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>25 credits have been in place for years</td>
<td>We have a small percentage of students who currently struggle to meet our 25 credits for graduation. These students consist of SPED, ELL, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban 731</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Changed our schedule from an 8 to 9 period day in order to offer students additional credits.</td>
<td>We've added additional courses (Financial literacy and others) to raise our credit requirements. Currently we have a 25 credit minimum to graduate. This has taken a toll on the school budget as it has forced our school district to have additional staff to meet the requirements</td>
<td>We'll need to reduce faculty in those very same areas, due to fiscal constraints.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban 1400</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>We've added additional courses (Financial literacy and others) to raise our credit requirements. Currently we have a 25 credit minimum to graduate. This has taken a toll on the school budget as it has forced our school district to have additional staff to meet the requirements</td>
<td>We have increased our course offerings over the years to allow students more choice. Most students currently reach 25 credits and the majority of the requirements even though we do not yet require 25 credits</td>
<td>The current law is too prescriptive. There was a proposal last year that seemed to allow more flexibility, but it was shot down. I find it hard to finalize requirements when we are waiting to see what requirements remain in place. 25 credits, yes, but a change to capstone, foreign language, p.e.? There are too many unknown still.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural 1300</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>We have increased our course offerings over the years to allow students more choice. Most students currently reach 25 credits and the majority of the requirements even though we do not yet require 25 credits</td>
<td>110 students w/2 an afternoon &amp; Big Picture learning school</td>
<td>What will be the SRA criteria? What guidance will the DOE provide of a school wishes to go the competency based diploma? Can the DOE lighten up restrictions on certifications? For example, teaching a course outside the certification area provides flexibility and can alleviate the need for additional staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban 1130</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>We are prepared to add a credit to the senior project and another elective credit. This will not be difficult at all. The issue for us is the world language requirement</td>
<td>1150 students w/4 an afternoon &amp; Big Picture learning school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban 480</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None at this time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban 720</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>We are currently awarding credit to Middle School students who take a World Language Course and pass it with at least C, awarding credit to MS who are accelerated in math, run a credit enhancement program and credit recovery program during the summer.</td>
<td>For us to move from our current 25 credit requirement for graduation we will have to move to an 8 period day which would have a significant budgetary impact on our community.</td>
<td>80% of our students to graduate and the requirements have made it difficult for students who might need to take a study hall or want to take an elective to fit them into their schedules. We also struggle with the two year world language requirement as there are some kids who struggle in this area. We require 25 to graduate, originally 22 but we took the CAPP performance standards out as the exam doesn't happen in anything other than science.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural 3024</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Developing a Senior Experience, discussions around filling the 4th year of Math</td>
<td>Currently, we have 24 credits as the requirement, many seniors take less than a full load (6 credits) because our students need to go to work to support their families. A graduating class for us is around 650. One half of them do reach 25 credits. To allow the students to get to 25 will require an additional staff of about 8 teachers. The budget will not support this and other programs (sports) may cut. There is very little room for error. 7 classes a year only gives 28 credits. Any more than three failures throughout the 4 years will result in extra time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural 551 7-12</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>staffing added, curriculum added- electives, math additional year, a science additional year</td>
<td>Right now in our area we seem to be one of the few schools who has adopted the recommendations. It is very difficult for our students to graduate and the requirements have made it difficult for students who might need to take a study hall or want to take an elective to fit them into their schedules. We also struggle with the two year world language requirement as there are some kids who struggle in this area. We require 25 to graduate, originally 22 but we took the CAPP performance standards out as the exam doesn't happen in anything other than science.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural 388</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>We adopted all of the state's recommendations- including four years of math right away as well as made senior project a graduation requirement</td>
<td>Right now in our area we seem to be one of the few schools who has adopted the recommendations. It is very difficult for our students to graduate and the requirements have made it difficult for students who might need to take a study hall or want to take an elective to fit them into their schedules. We also struggle with the two year world language requirement as there are some kids who struggle in this area. We require 25 to graduate, originally 22 but we took the CAPP performance standards out as the exam doesn't happen in anything other than science.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban 1462</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>working on curricula changes</td>
<td>Working on curricula changes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural 1247</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Staffing, Funding</td>
<td>Funding to teach more curricula with less staff due to budget cuts. Can't offer more programs with fewer teachers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban 1462</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>We will be offering a Capstone program for credit, changed our schedule 6 years ago and rearranged credit offerings (a change science credit to reflect seat time)</td>
<td>The biggest problem we will be facing will be with students who have 35% and various supports are precluded from taking enough classes/credits to earn 25 toward graduation.</td>
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</table>
Our changes are occurring with the Class of 2020. Our staffing levels are not sufficient to meet the demand. Our budget was at the MRR level last year and will probably be the same this year. The budget constraints make it difficult to implement a more rigorous program.

We are transitioning to a Mastery-based system which is counter-intuitive to the state's attachment to Carnegie units.

Meeting the needs of our special education population. Offering more credit recovery. All students requiring world languages. All students requiring 4 years of math credits.

We need to add 1 additional FTE teacher. Based on contractual class size and teacher workloads, we need 1 additional FTE for every 125 students. In order to provide 1 FTE to 2659 students, we need to add 10 FTEs in the current budget environment, so the additional budget would be very difficult to support. To maintain funding for adequate staffing.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>School Size</th>
<th>Free or Reduced Lunch</th>
<th>Concerns</th>
<th>Additional Graduation Requirements for Magnet High School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>680</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>No concerns - we have an alternate block schedule for over a decade; students take 8 classes over 2 days, and we have always had additional requirements for graduation as a magnet high school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Nothing</td>
<td>Budget and staff implications; need for schedule adjustment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>1070</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Increased credits to get to 22.5 for the class of 2018 and beyond. We have been able to do this without impacting staff because of decreasing enrollment. Funding: We were able to move from 20 credits to 22.5 without impacting staff. That will not be the case in the move to 25 credits. This is clearly an unfunded mandate that is going to put a financial burden on the towns. Another concern: The courses mandated are too prescriptive.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>While we are not yet at 25, we have started offering credit to MS students for completing HS level courses provided they meet certain criteria - beginning to investigate Capstone Projects; allowing more opportunities for students to earn high school credit through work study, internships and college offerings. Where are we going to get the funding or time in the school day to complete this? Beyond that, changing the amount of credits in no way makes a education more rigorous.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Project Lead the Way (STEM), additional electives will need to run for Humanities and STEM elective requirements. With declining enrollment, taxpayers expect a reduction in force but not aware of additional credits/courses required for graduation. World Language requirement is the most concerning especially given the shortage of staffing and the needs of students with IEPs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suburban</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>44% minority</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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</table>

**Student Composition**

- **Urban 690**
  - 42% Hispanic, 33% White, 25% Black, 4% Asian
  - No concerns - we have an alternate block schedule for over a decade; students take 8 classes over 2 days, and we have always had additional requirements for graduation as a magnet high school.

- **Urban 1855**
  - 0% Hispanic, 33% White, 25% Black, 4% Asian
  - Nothing

- **Suburban 1070**
  - 62% White; 7% Hispanic, 2% African American; 4% Asian
  - No concerns - we have an alternate block schedule for over a decade; students take 8 classes over 2 days, and we have always had additional requirements for graduation as a magnet high school.

- **Suburban 1855**
  - 0% Hispanic, 33% White, 25% Black, 4% Asian
  - Nothing

- **Rural 750**
  - 82% White; 7% Hispanic, 2% African American; 4% Asian; 5% Other
  - No concerns - we have an alternate block schedule for over a decade; students take 8 classes over 2 days, and we have always had additional requirements for graduation as a magnet high school.

- **Suburban 575**
  - 90% Caucasian
  - Project Lead the Way (STEM), additional electives will need to run for Humanities and STEM elective requirements.

- **Suburban 800**
  - 44% minority
  - Yes