



**Wisconsin Mathematics Council
Position Statement**

Wisconsin Mathematics Requirement for High School Graduation

(Approved July 2009, Revised July 2013)

WMC Position

The Wisconsin Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (WCCSSM) in their current or revised form, should be the source of mathematics performance standards that all high school graduates are required to attain. Mastery of the WCCSSM should be used to meet the mathematics requirement for high school graduation. In addition, since the WCCSSM sets a minimum requirement for all students, students should be encouraged to study higher levels of mathematics beyond the performance standards to meet their individual future career aspirations.

We support the effort to increase the minimum mathematics expectations for all students. However, designating the number of mathematics credits needed for graduation alone fails to ensure quality mathematics courses and consequently more mathematics being learned.

- A high school mathematics program must provide every high school graduate with the background necessary to be successful. The knowledge obtained in the study of mathematics is more important than the units of study or credits undertaken. The minimum content to be mastered by all graduates shall be a constant, while the time to master the content may vary.
- Specifying the number of mathematics credits for high school graduation is not a validation of WCCSSM mastery. Increasing Carnegie units or credits does not necessarily guarantee an increase in the mathematical growth of students; instead, it may lead to the creation of courses that do not advance the mathematical knowledge of students. Course names and or their descriptions are not universal and thus can be misleading.

Determining mastery of the standards could be measured using a variety of methods.

- Each school district could document the mastery of an individual student's attainment of the WCCSSM using a portfolio model to determine eligibility for high school graduation.
- A statewide testing program could be developed to measure individual student attainment of the WCCSSM to determine eligibility for high school graduation.

Note that the WCCSSM may be studied through a variety of curricula materials, pedagogical approaches, course offerings, and scheduling options (block, traditional, modified). All mathematics programs should promote and integrate rigor and relevance.

*WMC Board Approved July 2009,
Amended July 2013 to replace Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Mathematics (WMAS) with Wisconsin Common Core State Standards for
Mathematics (WCCSSM)*