

Gresham-Barlow SD 10

Code: **IKFC-AR**

Adopted: 5/01/97

Readopted: 5/02/02; 5/11/09; 2/01/10;
2/07/12

Modified Diploma, Extended Diploma and Alternative Certificate

“Documented history” means evidence in the cumulative record and education plans of a student that demonstrates the inability over time to maintain grade level achievement even with appropriate modifications and accommodations.

“Instructional barrier” means a significant physical, cognitive or emotional barrier that impairs a student’s ability to maintain grade level achievement.

“Modified course” means a course that has been systematically changed or altered for a student only after reasonable alternative instructional strategies (e.g. accommodations, remediation) are exhausted.

The district will ensure that students have onsite access to the appropriate resources to achieve a Gresham-Barlow, State of Oregon, modified or extended diploma or an alternative certificate at each high school in the district. This includes having access to needed courses, appropriate resources, modifications and supports to progress in the general education curriculum and to pursue any high school diploma or certificate option. The district will provide age appropriate and developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation. A student with a documented history will have the option to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements than a modified or extended diploma and may not be denied this opportunity for the sole reason that the student has a documented history. Students pursuing modified or extended diploma options or an alternative certificate shall have access to literacy instruction until the completion of high school.

The district may not deny a student, who has the documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers, or of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievements, the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements than a modified diploma or an extended diploma for the sole reason that the student has the documented history.

A school team, consisting of the student’s parents and the student, will meet to review the extenuating circumstances for the individual student and determine if a modified or extended diploma or alternative certificate will be awarded. The Gresham-Barlow School District or its public charter schools shall determine which school teams shall decide if a student will work toward obtaining a regular, modified or extended diploma or an alternative certificate. The district will award a modified or extended diploma to a student only upon the written consent of the parent or guardian of the student. The district shall receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma or extended diploma is awarded. A student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18 at the time the modified diploma or extended diploma is awarded may sign the consent. Parent consent is not required for an alternative certificate. In the case of a student receiving special education and related services the resident school district of a public charter school student shall determine the school team for that student.

The decision to pursue a modified or extended diploma shall be decided no earlier than the end of the 6th grade and no later than 2 years before the student's anticipated exit from high school. A student's school team may decide to revise a modified or extended diploma decision. If the documented history of a student less than 2 years from anticipated exit from high school has changed and the student was not previously working towards a modified or extended diploma, the student's school team may decide that the student should work toward a modified or extended diploma.

A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate in either four years after starting the ninth grade, or until the student reaches the age of 21, if the student is entitled to a public education until the age of 21 under state or federal law.

A student may satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate in less than four years but not less than three years. In order to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate in less than four years, the student's parent or guardian or a student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18 must provide written consent which clearly states the parent, guardian or student is waiving the fourth year and/or years until the student reaches the age of 21. A copy of the consent will be forwarded to the district superintendent who will annually report to the superintendent of Public Instruction the number of such consents.

Beginning in grade five, the district will annually provide information on the availability of a modified diploma, an extended diploma, and an alternative certificate and the requirement for the diplomas and certificate to the parents or guardians of a student taking an alternate assessment.

The school district and public charter schools shall annually notify students taking alternative assessments and their parents or guardians of the availability of the modified and extended diploma and alternative certificate and their requirements beginning in the fifth grade and shall ensure that parents or guardians are involved in the decision to pursue a modified or extended diploma or an alternative certificate for a student.

The school district and its public charter schools shall inform the student and parent or guardian of the student if the courses in grades 9-12 have been modified for an individual student. Transcripts will clearly identify modified courses that do not count toward the Gresham-Barlow School District or State of Oregon diploma but do count toward a modified diploma.

With completion of the modified or extended diploma or alternative certificate requirements, the student is eligible to participate in all graduation activities.

A student who receives a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate shall have access to individually designed instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services that equal at least the total number of instructional hours that are required to be provided to students who are attending a public high school, unless reduced by the IEP team.

The district will award to students a document certifying successful completion of modified or extended diploma or alternative certificate requirements. The document, when issued to students with disabilities educated in full or in part in a special education program, shall not indicate that the document is issued by such a program. When a student who has an individualized education program (IEP) completes high school, the district will give the student an individualized summary of performance.

Eligible students with disabilities are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (“FAPE”) until the age of 21, even if they have earned a modified diploma, an extended diploma, an alternative certificate or completion of a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate is contingent on the IEP team determining the student’s continued eligibility and special education services are needed.

Modified Diploma

A modified diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards established by the State Board of Education for a diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. A modified diploma may only be awarded to a student who meets the eligibility criteria below:

1. A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student; or
2. A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

Students and their parents will be notified of graduation and diploma requirements.

Students currently engaged in the use of illegal drugs are not eligible for a modified diploma if the significant learning and instructional barriers are due to the use of illegal drugs. Students currently engaged in the illegal use of alcohol are not eligible for a modified diploma if the significant learning and instructional barriers are due to the alcohol abuse, regardless of whether that student is disabled under Section 504 on the basis of alcoholism. Notwithstanding the previous two statements, a school district or public charter school may grant eligibility for a modified diploma to a student who is no longer engaging in illegal use of drugs or alcohol if the student:

1. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and is no longer engaged in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol; or
2. Has been rehabilitated successfully and is no longer engaged in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol; or
3. Is participating in a supervised rehabilitation program and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol.

Unit of credit requirements for students graduating with a modified diploma:

To receive a modified diploma a student must earn 24 units of credit, between grade 9 and the end of their high school career with at least 12 of those credits to include:

Subject		Units of Credit
English Language Arts		3
Mathematics		2
Science		2
Social Sciences (which may include history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finance)		2
Health Education		1
Physical Education		1
Career Technical Education, The Arts or Second Languages (units may be earned in any one or a combination)		1
Total		12
Essential Skills required:	Enrolled in grade nine during 2008-09 school year (Graduates of 2012): Read and comprehend a variety of text.	Enrolled in grade nine during 2010-11 school year (Graduates of 2014): Read and comprehend a variety of text, write clearly and accurately, apply math.
	Enrolled in grade nine during 2009-10 school year (Graduates of 2013): Read and comprehend a variety of text, write clearly and accurately.	Enrolled in grade nine during 2011-12 school year or first enrolled in grade nine in any subsequent school year(Graduates of 2015 and beyond): Read and comprehend a variety of text, write clearly and accurately, apply math, any additional Essential Skills adopted by the State Board of Education.
Other graduation requirements:	Develop an education plan and build an education profile.	
	Demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence.	

The school district and its public charter schools shall be flexible in awarding the remaining 12 units of credit. These credits must be awarded to meet the needs of the individual student as specified in the education plan of the student with the expectations and standards aligned to the appropriate grade level academic content standards. These credits may include:

1. Additional core credits described above;
2. Professional technical education;
3. Electives; and
4. Career development.

Students may earn units of credit through regular education with or without accommodations or modifications and through modified courses.

The school district and its public charter schools shall grant credit toward a modified diploma according to individual student needs across academic content areas including applied, consumer, academic, or knowledge and skill development. Each student shall develop an education plan and build an education profile as provided under OAR 581-022-1130.

Personalized Learning

In addition to credit requirements, Essential Skills and portfolio requirements, students must:

1. Develop an education plan and profile.
2. Apply and extend their knowledge in new complex situations related to the student's personal and career interest and post-high school goals through critical thinking, problem solving, or inquiry in real world contexts.
3. Participate in career-related learning experiences (minimum of 2).

Requirements may be modified or waived in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the district.

Students shall have the option to earn credit by demonstrating proficiency. A student may be given credit for successful demonstration of knowledge and skills that meet or exceed defined levels of performance. Students may demonstrate proficiency through classroom work or documentation of learning experiences outside of school, or through a combination of these means.

A student shall be granted credit toward a modified diploma only for courses that contain substantial academic content. A continuum of instruction will be available beginning at basic skills and progressing through high level skills.

Districts may make modifications to the assessment for students who seek a modified diploma when the following conditions are met:

1. For a student on an IEP, any modifications to work samples must be consistent with the requirements established in the IEP. Modifications are changes to the achievement level, construct, or measured outcome of an assessment. This means that IEP or school teams responsible for approving modifications for a student's assessment may adjust the administration of the assessment and/or the assessment's achievement standard.
2. For a student not on an IEP, any modifications to work samples must have been provided to the student during their instruction in the content area to be assessed and in the year in which the student is being assessed and modifications must be approved by the school team that is responsible for monitoring the student's progress toward the modified diploma.

Students not on an IEP or a 504 Plan may not receive a modified OAKS assessment.

Extended Diploma

An extended diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high school diploma with reasonable modifications and accommodations.

To be considered for a modified diploma a student must have:

1. A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
2. A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement; and
3. Participated in an alternative assessment beginning no later than grade six and lasting for two or more assessment cycles; or
4. A serious illness or injury occurring after grade eight that changes the student's ability to participate in grade level activities and results in the student participating in alternative assessments.

Unit of credit requirements for students graduating with an extended diploma:

To receive an extended diploma a student must earn 12 units of credit while in grade nine through completion of high school, which may not include more than six credits earned in a self-contained special education classroom and shall include:

Subject	Units of Credit
Mathematics	2
English	2
Science	2
History, Geography, Economics or Civics	3
Health	1
Physical Education	1
Arts or second language	1
Total	12

Alternative Certificate

An alternative certificate shall be awarded to a student who does not satisfy the requirements for a Gresham-Barlow, State of Oregon, modified or extended diploma. The district will award an alternative certificate to students based on individual student needs and achievement.

The Gresham-Barlow School District may issue an Alternative Certificate to a student who has reached 18 years of age but who has been unable to earn a diploma due to extenuating circumstances of the student.

To earn an Alternative Certificate the student will have met the following requirements:

1. Has attended a district high school for a minimum of half time status during the last semester of the senior year. Exceptions may be granted by the district for students who have been participating in a district-approved and district-placed private or public alternative program or who have moved into the district after the beginning of the last semester; and
2. Has documented extenuating circumstances, beyond the student's control, that prevent the completion of a Gresham-Barlow, State of Oregon, modified or extended diploma.

District charter school boards will establish requirements for the awarding of the Alternative Certificate. These requirements must be approved by the Gresham-Barlow School District.

A school team, consisting of the student's parents and the student, will meet to review the extenuating circumstances of the individual student and determine if an Alternative Certificate will be awarded.