

## **Graduation Requirements**

The Board will establish graduation requirements for the awarding of a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma and an alternative certificate which meet or exceed state requirements.

A student may satisfy graduation requirements in less than four years. The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years if consent is received by the student's parent or guardian or by the student if he/she is 18 years of age or older or emancipated.

The district will ensure that students have onsite access to the appropriate resources to achieve a diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate at each high school. The district will provide age appropriate and developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

### **Essential Skills**

The district will allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of Apply Mathematics, in a variety of settings, in the student's language of origin for those ELL students who by the end of high school:

1. Are on track to meet all other graduation requirements; and
2. Are unable to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in English.

The district will allow ELL students to demonstrate proficiency in Essential Skills other than Apply Mathematics, in a variety of settings, in the student's language of origin for those ELL students who by the end of high school:

1. Are on track to meet all other graduation requirements;
2. Are unable to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in English;
3. Have been enrolled in a U.S. school for five years or less; and
4. Have demonstrated sufficient English language skills using the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>For students seeking a diploma in 2015-2016, this criteria does not apply.

The district will develop procedures to provide assessment options as described in the *Essential Skills and Local Performance Assessment Manual*, in the ELL student's language of origin for those ELL students who meet the criteria above, and will develop procedures to ensure that locally scored assessment options administered in an ELL student's language of origin are scored by a qualified rater.

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 the student has the documented history.

The district may award a modified diploma or an extended diploma to a student only upon the written consent of the student's parent or guardian. The district shall receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma or the extended diploma is awarded. A student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18 at the time the modified diploma or the extended diploma is awarded may sign the consent.

A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an 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, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate in less than four years but not less than three years. In order to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an 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 or after a documented history to qualify for an extended diploma has been established, the district will annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of a modified diploma, an extended diploma and an alternative certificate.

A student who receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate will have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

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

The district will award to students with disabilities a document certifying successful completion of program requirements. No document issued to students with disabilities educated in full or in part in a special education program shall indicate that the document is issued by such a program. When a student who has an 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 alternate certificate or completion or a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate is contingent on the IEP team determining the student’s continued eligibility and special education services are needed.

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

The district will review graduation requirements biennially in conjunction with the secondary school improvement plan. Graduation requirements may be revised to address student performance.

The district may not deny a diploma to a student who has opted out of the Smarter Balanced or alternate Oregon Extended Assessment if the student is able to satisfy all other requirements for the diploma. Students who opt-out will need to meet the Essential Skills graduation requirement using another approved assessment option.

The district will issue a high school diploma, upon request, to a person who served in the Armed Forces<sup>2</sup>, as specified in Oregon law, if the person was discharged or released under honorable conditions and has received either a General Educational Development, a post-secondary degree or has received a minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

The district shall establish conduct and discipline consequences for student-initiated test impropriety. “Student-initiated test impropriety” means student conduct that is inconsistent with the *Test Administration Manual* or accompanying guidance; or results in a score that is invalid.

END OF POLICY

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<sup>2</sup>The policy applies to any person who:

1. Served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. at any time during:
  - a. World War I;
  - b. World War II;
  - c. The Korean Conflict; or
  - d. The Vietnam War;
2. Served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. and was physically present in:
  - a. Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada);
  - b. Operation Just Cause (Panama);
  - c. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm (Persian Gulf War);
  - d. Operation Restore Hope (Somalia);
  - e. Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan); or
  - f. Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq);
3. Served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. in an area designated as a combat zone by the President of the U.S.

**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 329.095](#)  
[ORS 329.451](#)  
[ORS 329.479](#)  
[ORS 332.107](#)  
[ORS 332.114](#)  
[ORS 338.115](#)  
[ORS 339.115](#)  
[ORS 339.505](#)

[ORS 343.295](#)  
  
[OAR 581-022-0615](#)  
[OAR 581-022-0617](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1130](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1131](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1133](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1134](#)

[OAR 581-002-1135](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1210](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1215](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1350](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1910](#)

*Test Administration Manual*, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (FEBRUARY 4, 2016).

*Essential Skills and Performance Assessment Manual*, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (MARCH 17, 2016).