

Program Exemptions

Parents may ask to exclude their students from courses required by the state. OAR 581-022-1910 allows such an exclusion for three reasons:

1. Religious beliefs;
2. Disabilities;
3. Other reasons deemed appropriate by the Board.

Guidelines for Approving Alternatives (K-8)

Parents must request in writing to the principal that their student be excused from the state-required program or learning activity and that an alternative program or learning be substituted. The written statement must include a description of how the alternative activity meets the goals of the activity or course being exempted.

Alternative learning experiences should be described in writing in order to document the proposed plan. This statement is to be placed in the student's cumulative file. The request should clearly state that it is a parent-initiated request and not a district request.

Guidelines for Approving Alternatives (9-12)

High school level alternatives may be substituted in two ways: (1) another course may be substituted for the exempted course; (2) parents or others may create a course for credit and instruct the student. In the latter case, the course must meet all of the requirements of a standard high school course.

Units of credit may not be waived. For example: if it takes 22 units to graduate from high school, a student may not be allowed to graduate with 21 units.

Required Actions:

1. Alternative learning experience decisions can be made at the school and at the district administrative level with information to the Board;
2. The Board must approve an alternative course for credit which would be generated by the parent.

Evaluation of Parental Request

1. The alternative should be consistent with the student's education progress and career goals.
2. The alternative must include appropriate Essential Learning Skills.

Approval of 9-12 Alternative Course for Credit

1. The superintendent will review the alternative prior to a Board action.

Board Approval of 9-12 Alternative Course for Credit

1. The Board must approve the alternative program.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 336.035](#) (2)
[ORS 336.615](#)
[ORS 336.625](#)
[ORS 336.635](#)

[OAR 581-021-0071](#)
[OAR 581-022-1350](#)
[OAR 581-022-1440](#)
[OAR 581-022-1910](#)
[OAR 581-022-1920](#)