

Program Exemptions

All students are required to participate in State and district-required programs and learning activities. No exemption from a semester or year-long course requirement that is required by the State shall be allowed unless specifically authorized in a waiver approved by the State Board of Education.

Exemptions from units of instruction and/or learning activities will be granted only in these circumstances:

1. **Religious Beliefs:** Administrative exemptions from specific learning activities or a unit or program within a course may be granted to accommodate a student's religious beliefs. The superintendent shall create the necessary mechanisms to implement administrative exemptions, including an opportunity for parents to preview and discuss curriculum materials used in sensitive areas of instruction prior to the classroom presentations.
2. **Disabilities:** Exemptions from specific activities and/or modification of requirements for participation may be granted to a student with a disability by the administration, in accordance with provisions of a 504 Plan, or an Individual Education Plan for students who qualify as disabled under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as developed and approved by the 504 team or IDEA team of educators and parent(s).

Exemptions from a program or specific learning activities regarding sexuality education, sexually transmitted diseases and/or HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis B will be granted upon request of a parent, or the student if the student is over age 18. Superintendent or designee shall create the necessary mechanisms to implement administrative exemptions, including an opportunity for parents to preview and discuss curriculum materials used in sensitive areas of instruction prior to the classroom presentations.

4. **Other Reasons:** Exemptions from specific learning activities or a unit of study may be granted by the Board for any other reason. However, no exemption from required number of credit hours or exemption from State requirements of coursework for graduation will be granted.
5. **Alternative Learning Activities:** In any case where an exemption has been granted, as provided in situations 1-4, the student and parents, or the student if over age 18, will propose an alternative for an individualized learning activity that substitutes for the period of time exempt from the program and meets the goals of the learning activity being exempt. The alternative should be consistent with the student's educational progress and career goals as described in Oregon Administrative Rules. If the alternative is approved and accomplished, credit for the entire course will be granted if the alternative activity is completed and if he/she has completed the regular course activities.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 336.035\(2\)](#)

[ORS 336.615](#)

[ORS 336.625](#)

[ORS 336.635](#)

[OAR 581-021-0071](#)

[OAR 581-022-0612](#)

[OAR 581-022-1350](#)

[OAR 581-022-1440](#)

[OAR 581-022-1910](#)

[OAR 581-022-1920](#)