

Graduation Requirements

Diploma

A high school diploma will be awarded to students in grades 9 through 12 who complete a minimum of 24 credits which include at least:

1. Four credits of English (shall include the equivalent of one unit in written composition);
2. Three credits of mathematics (shall include one unit at the Algebra I level and two units that are at a level higher than Algebra I);
3. Three credits of science;
4. Three credits of social sciences (including history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finance));
5. One credit in health education;
6. One credit in physical education; and
7. Three credits in career and technical education, the arts, or world language (units shall be earned in any one or a combination).

The MESD shall offer students credit options provided the method for obtaining such credit is described in the student's personal education plan and the credit is earned by meeting requirements described in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-2025.

To receive a diploma, in addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2000, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of Reading, Writing and Applied Mathematics;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
3. Demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence; and,
4. Participate in career-related learning experiences outlined in the education plan.

Essential Skills Appeal

The MESD will follow Board policy KL - Public Complaints in the event of an appeal for the denial of a diploma based on the Essential Skills graduation requirement. The MESD will retain work samples and student performance data to ensure that sufficient evidence is available in the event of an appeal.

Modified Diploma

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

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

Having met the above eligibility criteria, a modified diploma will be awarded to students who, while in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 24 credits which shall include:

1. Three credits in English;
2. Two credits in mathematics;
3. Two credits in science;
4. Two credits in social sciences (which may include history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finances));
5. One credit in health education;
6. One credit in physical education; and
7. One credit in career technology, the arts or a world language (units may be earned in any one or a combination).

In addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2010, a student must:

1. Develop an education plan and build an education profile; and
2. Demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence.

A student must also demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations.

The MESD 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 individualized education program (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 his/her 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 Section 504 Plan (American Disabilities Act) may not receive a modified Smarter Balanced Assessment.

A student's school team shall decide that a student should work toward a modified diploma no earlier than the end of grade six and no later than two years before the student's anticipated exit from high school. A student's school team may decide to revise a modified diploma decision.

A student's school team may decide that a student who was not previously working towards a modified diploma should work towards one when the student is less than two years from anticipated exit from high school if the documented history has changed.

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 adopted by the State Board of Education for a diploma while receiving modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for an extended diploma, a student must:

1. While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 12 credits, which may not include more than six credits in a self-contained special education classroom and will include:
 - a. Two credits of mathematics;
 - b. Two credits of English;
 - c. Two credits of science;
 - d. Three credits of history, geography, economics or civics;
 - e. One credit of health;
 - f. One credit of physical education;
 - g. One credit of the arts or a world language.
2. Have a documented history of:
 - a. An inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
 - b. A medical condition that creates a barrier to achievements;
 - c. A change in the student's ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight.

Alternative Certificates

Alternative certificates will be awarded to students who do not satisfy the requirements for a diploma, modified diploma or extended diploma if the students meet minimum credit requirements established by the MESD. Alternative certificates will be awarded based on individual student needs and achievement.

Assessment

Students may opt-out of the Smarter Balanced or alternate Oregon Extended Assessment by completing the Oregon Department of Education's Opt-out Form¹ and submitting the form to the ESD.

¹www.ode.state.or.us; or navigate to Teaching & Learning > Testing - Student Assessment > Smarter Balanced