

## Graduation Requirements\*\*

The Board will establish requirements for graduation from Oregon City High School and any public charter school within the Oregon City School District to meet or exceed those established by the state board of education, as well as ensure that students have ample opportunity to build a foundation in the areas of core curriculum and to explore the diverse offerings of the elective program. The superintendent will develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Oregon City School District offers six diplomas and one certificate for high school completion:

1. **Basic Diploma:** for students who have met specific requirements established by the State Board of Education.
2. **Standard Diploma:** for students on track to graduate with their class.
3. **Honors or Advanced Honors Diploma:** for students who desire a more challenging and rigorous academic program.
4. **Modified Diploma:** for those identified students who have demonstrated an inability to meet the full set of academic standards, and also meet the other requirements established by the State Board of Education.
5. **Extended Diploma:** for students who have demonstrated an inability to meet the full set of academic content standards while receiving modifications and accommodations, and meet the other requirements set by the State Board of Education.
6. **Alternative Certificates:** for students who do not satisfy the requirements for a diploma, a modified diploma or an extended diploma. Alternative certificates will be awarded based on individual student needs and achievement.

Credit requirements for the different diplomas and the alternative certificates are set forth in the supporting administrative regulation (IKF-AR) for this policy.

Public charter schools within the Oregon City School District may have slight differences in the way credits are earned, but the total credits required to graduate will be the same as for students at Oregon City High School.

The district encourages students to perform at the highest level possible in their course work. Recognizing that some middle school age students are able to master existing high school curriculum, it is the policy of the district to allow middle school students, who are qualified, to take designated high school classes/courses.

High school credit may be granted, if students taking middle school courses are required to meet performance criteria that are equivalent to the performance criteria for students taking the same high school courses. The district will allow the granting of such credit toward meeting graduation 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 upon the student's request and if required, the student's parent or guardian consent. (Cross Reference – Board policy IKFA - Early 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 students who by the end of their 11th grade year are:

1. On track to meet all other graduation requirements; and
2. 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 students who by the end of their 11th grade year:

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. Receives at least a level 3 (Intermediate) on the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA).

### **Essential Skills Appeal**

The district 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 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 of about the availability and requirements of a modified diploma, an extended diploma and/or an alternative certificate.

A student who receives a basic diploma, standard diploma, honors diploma, advanced honors diploma, modified diploma, 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, an 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 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 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 alternate certificate or completion of 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 issue a high school diploma, upon request, to a person who served in the Armed Forces<sup>1</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.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 329.095](#)  
[ORS 329.451](#)  
[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](#)

TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL, APPENDIX L-REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT OF ESSENTIAL SKILLS.

**Cross Reference(s):**

IKFA - Early Graduation

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<sup>1</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.