

Graduation Requirements**

The Board will establish graduation requirements for the awarding of a high school diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma and alternative certificate which meet or exceed state requirements. A student may satisfy graduation requirements in less than four years. The ESD will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years if consent is given by the student's parent or guardian or by the student if he/she is 18 years of age or older or emancipated.

If the ESD requires diploma requirements beyond the state requirements, the ESD shall grant a waiver for those requirements to any student who, at any time from grade 9 to 12, was:

1. A foster child¹;
2. Homeless;
3. A runaway;
4. A child in a military family covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children;
5. A child of a migrant worker; or
6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program.

For any student identified above, the ESD shall accept any credits earned by the student in another school district or public charter school, applying those credits toward the state requirements for a diploma if the credits satisfied those requirements in that other school district or public charter school².

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

Essential Skills

The ESD will allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skill 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

¹As defined in ORS 30.297.

²For a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2018.

2. Are unable to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in English.

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

The ESD 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.

Essential Skills Appeal

The ESD 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 ESD will retain student work samples and student performance data related to the assessment of essential skills to ensure that sufficient evidence is available in the event of an appeal.

Other ESD Responsibilities

The ESD program 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 ESD program may award a modified diploma or extended diploma to a student only upon written consent of the student's parent or guardian. The ESD must receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate is awarded. A student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18 at the time the modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate is awarded may provide written consent.

A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate:

1. In either four years after starting the ninth grade, or
2. 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.

In order to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate in less than four years but not less than three years, the student's parent or guardian or a student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18:

1. Must provide written consent that clearly states the fourth year and/or the years until the student reaches 21 are being waived, and
2. A copy of the consent will be forwarded to the ESD 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 ESD shall 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 qualifies to receive or receives a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate shall have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

A student who receives an, extended diploma or alternative certificate shall have access to individually designed instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of services that equal at least the total number of instructional hours that are required to be provided to students who are attending a public high school, as determined by the IEP team.

A student who qualifies to receive a modified diploma but has not yet been awarded the modified diploma shall continue to have access to individually designed instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services that are designed to meet the unique needs of the student.³

The ESD program 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 alternative certificate or completion or a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities for a modified diplomas, extended diploma or 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 by grade five of graduation and diploma requirements.

The ESD will review graduation requirements biennially in conjunction with the secondary school improvement plan.

³A student who received a modified diploma prior to July 1, 2018 shall continue to have access to instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services that are designed to meet the unique needs of the student.

The ESD may not deny a diploma to a student who has opted out of the statewide assessments 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 ESD will issue a high school diploma, upon request and pursuant to Oregon law (ORS 332.114), to a person or a representative of a deceased person who served in the Armed Forces⁴ and was discharged or released under honorable conditions.

The ESD 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

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 329.095	ORS 343.295	OAR 581-022-1133
ORS 329.451		OAR 581-022-1134
ORS 329.479	OAR 581-022-0615	OAR 581-022-1135
ORS 332.114	OAR 581-022-0617	OAR 581-022-1210
ORS 334.125(7)	OAR 581-022-1130	OAR 581-022-1215
ORS 339.115	OAR 581-022-1131	OAR 581-022-1350
ORS 339.505		

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).

⁴The 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.