

## **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 upon the student's request and, if required, if the student's parent or guardian consents.

The ESD will ensure that students have 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 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 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 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).

The ESD will develop procedures to provide assessment options as described in the Test Administration 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 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 shall receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma or extended diploma is awarded. This requirement does not apply to a student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18 at the time the modified diploma or extended diploma is awarded.

Beginning in grade five, the ESD will annually provide information of the unavailability of a modified diploma, an extended diploma and an alternative certificate and the requirement for the diplomas and certificate to the parents or guardians of a student taking an alternate assessment.

A student who receives a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate will have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

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 alternate 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 of graduation and diploma requirements.

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

The ESD program 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 332.114](#)  
[ORS 334.125](#)  
[ORS 338.115](#)  
[ORS 339.115](#)  
[ORS 339.505](#)  
[ORS 343.295](#)

[OAR 581-021-0071](#)  
[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 581-022-1135](#)

[OAR 581-022-1210](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1215](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1350](#)

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

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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.