

Graduation Requirements

The Board will establish graduation requirements for the awarding of a regular high school diploma which meet or exceed state standards. The Board will also establish minimum requirements for awarding a modified diploma, extended diploma, Certificate of Achievement, and Certificate of Attendance.

The district 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 district will provide age appropriate and developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

A modified diploma will be awarded to students who have met specific requirements established by the State Board of Education and have demonstrated an inability to meet the full set of academic standards even with reasonable modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for a modified diploma or extended diploma a student must have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers or a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

The district may award a modified diploma or 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 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.

Alternative certificates of achievement or attendance will be awarded to a student who does not satisfy the requirements for a diploma, modified diploma, or extended diploma if the student meets minimum credit requirements established by the district. Alternative certificates will be awarded based on individual student's needs and achievement. 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 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 a 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, extended diploma, alternative certificate, or completion of a General Education Development (GED) program. The continuance of services for

students with disabilities for a modified diploma, extended diploma, alternative certificate, or GED is contingent on the IEP team determining the student's continued eligibility and special education services are needed.

Options for Awarding Credit

The board will award credit through a variety of options including:

- a) successful completion of classroom or equivalent work in a course of at least 130 clock hours.
- b) successful completion of studies and life experiences (subject to Board Policy "Credit for Proficiency") evidenced by the submission of work demonstrating the meeting performance-based criteria determined previously to be acceptable by the school board. Practice to award credit in this manner will be developed according to "ODE guidelines regarding credit for proficiency".
- c) credits earned from other accredited institutions.

Credit or Waiver by Challenge Test

Students may, under provisions established by the middle and high school staff, petition for waiver by examination. If granted, the student may substitute another course for the one waived. Procedures for design and administration of challenge tests shall rest with the middle and high school administrators and staff.

Early or Delayed Graduation

A student may graduate from high school early provided the student has completed the requirements set forth by the state and the district. The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years upon the student's request and with the consent of the student's parent or guardian. A student may also be granted permission to delay graduation beyond the twelfth grade provided the student has not yet met requirements set forth by the state and district. A student who is meeting requirements on a delayed basis may not enroll in the new school year beyond that in which his/her 21st birthday occurs.

Essential Skills and Other Diploma Requirements

To receive a diploma or modified diploma, in addition to credit requirements, as outlined in OAR 581-022-1130 and OAR 581-022-1134, respectively, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the essential skills¹;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
3. Demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence;
4. Participate in career-related learning experiences.

¹This graduation requirement applies to students who receive a high school diploma on or after Sept 1, 2011, as adopted by the State Board of Education. Each student shall demonstrate proficiency in essential skills adopted by the State Board of Education as provided in OAR 581-022-0615. Proficiency is required in reading in 2012, writing in 2013, and apply math in 2014.

Essential Skills

The district 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 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).

The district 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 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 will retain student work samples and student performance data to ensure that sufficient evidence is available in the event of an appeal.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

<u>ORS 329.095</u>	<u>ORS 339.115</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-0617</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-1210</u>
<u>ORS 329.451</u>	<u>ORS 339.505</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-1130</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-1215</u>
<u>ORS 332.107</u>	<u>ORS 343.295</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-1131</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-1350</u>
<u>ORS 332.114</u>		<u>OAR 581-022-1133</u>	
<u>ORS 338.115</u>	<u>OAR 581-021-0071</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-1134</u>	
	<u>OAR 581-022-0615</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-1135</u>	