

## **Alternative Certificate Information and Considerations**

An Alternative Certificate is a high school completion document that may be earned by students receiving special education services and demonstrate an inability to meet the full set of academic content standards required for an Oregon Diploma, Modified Diploma, or Extended Diploma. Alternative Certificates are awarded to students upon completion of an Individualized Education Plan and fulfillment of minimum attendance requirements. To be eligible for an Alternative Certificate, a student must:

- Have a documented history (as evidenced in the cumulative record over time) of an inability to maintain grade-level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers (physical, cognitive, or emotional), or;
- A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement

### **Considerations for Teams, Adult Students, Guardians and Parents**

#### **Program Expectations and Grading:**

- Students are expected to pursue and make progress toward an individualized educational plan as part of the Alternative Certificate requirements.

#### **Decision:**

- The decision to pursue an Alternative Certificate should be made two years prior to the student's anticipated graduation date.
- If an IEP team is considering an Alternative Certificate option less than two years from the anticipated graduation date, the IEP team must review the recommendation with a Special Education Facilitator at least a week prior to conducting the IEP meeting to make the diploma change.

#### **Graduation:**

- Students receiving an Alternative Certificate may participate in all graduation activities.
- There are no essential content skills requirements to receive an Alternative Certificate.
- Students receiving special education services who receive an Alternative Certificate may continue to receive transition and support services through the age of 21.



**Post-Graduation:**

- Students who receive an Alternative Certificate and are eligible for Special Education may continue to attend high school and/or receive transition support through the age of 21. Students with an Alternative Certificate are typically not eligible to attend a four-year university immediately upon graduation. Community college may be an appropriate alternative, but admission testing is required. The military may not be an available option to recipients of an Alternative Certificate.

**Graduation Requirements:**

- For specific Alternative Certificate requirements, see *Diploma Options Matrix*