

Medford School District 549C

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Graduation Requirements**

The Board has established graduation requirements that meet or exceed state standards. These requirements will be published yearly for students and their parents/guardians. A student may satisfy graduation requirements in less than four years.

To receive a Medford School District (MSD) diploma, in addition to credit requirements outlined in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-2000, respectively, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in Essential Skills;
2. Earn a Career Education credit or equivalent through which a student:
 - a. Develops an education plan and profile;
 - b. Demonstrates an extended application of academic knowledge through a collection of evidence; and
 - c. Participates in career-related learning experiences and/or coursework related to their plan/profile.

Students typically earn 1/4 credit by taking and passing one class for one quarter (nine weeks). The district shall offer students alternative credit options provided the method for obtaining such credits is described in the student's personal education plan and the credit is earned by meeting requirements described in OAR 581-022-2025.

Activities to assist students in successfully meeting these requirements are integrated in required high school courses and the high school guidance and counseling program. Students and their parents will be notified of graduation and diploma requirements.

If the district requires diploma requirements beyond the state requirements, the district 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;

¹ As defined in ORS 30.297.

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

There are four types of diplomas and certificates a student may earn upon completion of high school. The requirements for each are listed below. All students must meet the following requirements to graduate from Medford high schools.

Medford School District Diploma

A Medford School District diploma may be awarded with administrative approval to students in grades nine through twelve who complete a minimum of 24 credits which include at least:

Medford School District Diploma Required Classes	Credits
English	4.0
Mathematics (Algebra 1 and higher)	3.0
Science	3.0
Social Sciences	3.0
Health	1.0
Physical Education	1.0
Applied Arts, Fine Arts, World Languages, or Career/Tech	3.0
Elective classes	6
Total required credits	24.0
Additional Requirements:	
Essential Skills	

A Medford School District diploma with honors is available to those students who are seeking to challenge themselves academically. This program will prepare students for their post-secondary education by providing rigorous coursework along with the opportunity to earn college credit. Students who wish to pursue a diploma with honors are strongly encouraged to begin taking Advanced Placement or honors courses their freshman year and must confirm their intentions with their counselor at the start of their junior year. To earn this designation on a diploma, a student must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, and earn nine or more credits in advanced placement or honors courses, or in other courses designated in the course guide as qualifying for the honors designation. Requirements must be met by the end of the 4th quarter of a student's graduation year. The student must also meet the district guidelines for a Medford School District diploma.

Modified Diploma

A modified diploma will be awarded to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards established by the State Board of Education for a diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for a modified diploma a student must:

- a. Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
- b. Have a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

Having met the above eligibility criteria, a modified diploma will be awarded to students, who while in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 24 credits which shall include:

Modified Diploma Required Classes	Credits
English	3.0
Mathematics	2.0
Science	2.0
Social Sciences	2.0
Health	1.0
Physical Education	1.0
Applied Arts, Fine Arts, World Language, or Career/Tech	1.0
Elective classes	12.0
Total required credits	24.0
Additional Requirements:	
Essential Skills (with reasonable modifications and accommodations)	

In addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2010, a student must:

- a. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
- b. Demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence.

A student must also demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations. Students not on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan may not receive a modified Smarter Balanced assessment.

Districts may make modifications to assessments for students who seek a modified diploma when the following conditions are met:

- a. For a student on an IEP or a Section 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must be consistent with the requirements established in the IEP or 504 plan. Modifications are changes to the achievement level, construct, or measured outcome of an assessment. This means that IEP or 504 school teams responsible for approving modifications for a student's assessment may adjust the administration of the assessment and/or the assessment's achievement standard;
- b. For a student not on an IEP or a Section 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must have been provided to the student during their instruction in the content area to be assessed; and in the year in which the student is being assessed, and modifications must be approved by

the school team that is responsible for monitoring the student's progress toward the modified diploma.

A student's school team shall decide that a student should work toward a modified diploma no earlier than the end of grade six and no later than two years before the student's anticipated exit from high school.

A student's school team may decide to revise a modified diploma decision. A student's school team may decide that a student who was not previously working toward a modified diploma should work toward one when the student is less than two years from anticipated exit from high school if the documented history has changed.

Extended Diploma

An extended diploma will be awarded to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a diploma while receiving modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for an extended diploma, a student must:

- a. Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers;
- b. Have a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievements; or
- c. Have a serious illness or injury that occurs after grade eight that changes the student's ability to participate in grade level activities.

While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 12 credits, which may not include more than six credits in a self-contained special education classroom and will include:

Extended Diploma Required Classes	Credits
English	2.0
Mathematics	2.0
Science	2.0
Social Sciences	3.0
Health	1.0
Physical Education	1.0
Applied Arts, Fine Arts, World Language, or Career/Tech	1.0
Total required credits	12.0

Alternative Certificates

Alternative certificates may be awarded to students who do 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 may be awarded based on individual student 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.

Other District Responsibilities

- a. Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for a modified diploma, the district will annually provide information to parents or guardians of the student on the availability and requirements of a modified diploma, an extended diploma, and an alternative certificate.
- b. The district 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 district will provide age appropriate and developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.
- c. 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.
- d. The district may award a modified diploma or extended diploma to a student only upon the 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 extended diploma is awarded may sign the consent.
- e. 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.
- f. 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, extended diploma, or 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.
- g. A student who receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or an alternative certificate will have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.
- h. 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 are required to be provided to students who are attending a public high school unless reduced by the IEP team.
- i. 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.
- j. 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 of a General Education Development (GED) document.

The continuance of services for students with modified diplomas is contingent on the IEP team determining services are needed.

Essential Skills

- a. In addition to credit requirements, as outlined in OAR 581-022-2000, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the essential skills which include an ability to read and comprehend a variety of texts; write clearly and accurately; and apply mathematics in a variety of settings.
- b. The district will allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in all required Essential Skills in the student's language of origin.
- c. The district will develop procedures to provide assessment options as described in the *Test 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.
- d. The district will establish an appeals process 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.

Physical Education Credit

Physical education credit may be earned through course offerings, athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved in advance.

Additional Considerations

The district will issue a high school diploma, pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS 332.114), to a veteran if the veteran resides within the boundaries of the district or is an Oregon resident and attended a high school of the district, or to a deceased veteran, upon request from a representative of the veteran, if the deceased veteran resided within the boundaries of the district at the time of death or was an Oregon resident at the time of death and attended a high school of the district.

The district may not deny a diploma to a student who has opted out of statewide assessments in accordance with state law. The district 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 329.045](#)
[ORS 329.451](#)
[ORS 329.479](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 332.114](#)
[ORS 339.115](#)
[ORS 339.505](#)

[ORS 343.295](#)

[OAR 581-022-1910](#)
[OAR 581-022-2000](#)
[OAR 581-022-2010](#)
[OAR 581-022-2015](#)
[OAR 581-022-2020](#)

[OAR 581-022-2025](#)
[OAR 581-022-2030](#)
[OAR 581-022-2115](#)
[OAR 581-022-2120](#)
[OAR 581-022-2505](#)

Test Administration Manual, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (2017-18).

Essential Skills and Local Performance Assessment Manual, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (JANUARY 22, 2018).