LEARNING FOR A LIFETIME

SALEM•KEIZER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Diploma Options

At-a-Glance Handbook

INS-M012



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Diploma Option Requirements

Credit Requirements By Diploma Type

	Oregon Standard Diploma	Modified Diploma	Extended Diploma
Language Arts	4 credits	3 credits	2 credits
Mathematics	3 credits, Algebra 1 and above	2 credits	2 credits
Social Studies Starting with students graduating in 2026, Social Studies MUST include at least 0.5 credits from Civics and inclusive instruction in Tribal History/Shared History, Holocaust/Genocide, and Ethnic Studies.	3 credits	2 credits*	3 credits
Science	3 credits	2 credits	2 credits
Health	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
PE	1 credit	1 credit	1 credit
Fine Arts includes World Languages, Arts, Career and Technical Education	3 credits	1 credit	1 credit
Electives	6 credits	12 credits	NONE REQUIRED
TOTAL CREDITS	24 credits	24 credits	12 credits

*Students earning a modified diploma are required to complete two full credits of social sciences, which may include history, civics, geography, and economics.

Essential Skills

(Essential Skills waived through 2027-2028 school year)

Oregon Standard Diploma Essential Skills

with or without accommodation

1. Reading
2. Writing
3. Math

Oregon Modified Diploma Essential Skills

with or without accommodation and/or modifications

1. Reading
2. Writing
3. Math

Oregon Extended Diploma Essential Skills

exempt from Essential Skills requirements.

1. Reading - Exempt
2. Writing - Exempt
3. Math - Exempt

Personalized Learning

	Oregon Standard Diploma	Modified Diploma	Extended Diploma
Personal Education Plan Required? (Personalized Learning Plans Begin in January 2027)	Yes	Yes	No, Exempt
Personal Financial Education	.5 Credits reduces Electives Credit by .5 (total reduction 1.0)	.5 Credits	Exempt

	Oregon Standard Diploma	Modified Diploma	Extended Diploma
Higher Ed & Career Path Skills	.50 Credits reduces Electives Credit by .5 (total reduction 1.0)	.50 Credits	Exempt

Graduation Option Criteria

Students in Regular Education, Special Education, or on a 504 Plan are eligible.

Oregon Standard Diploma

Criteria

Ability to meet the full set of academic content standards.

Credits

24 Credits required with Regular curriculum with/without accommodations.

Essential Skills

In addition to credit requirements, students must demonstrate essential skills in reading, writing, and mathematics (R/W/M) through one or more of the following options:

- Smarter Balanced English Language Arts Assessment
- Smarter Balanced Math Assessment
- Two Work Samples in each area (R/W/M)
- Work Keys

See Oregon Essential Skills Manual for Additional Options. Essential Skills are suspended through the 2027-28 school year.

Beginning in January 2027 Standard and Modified Diplomas will require:

- Personal Financial Education 0.5 credits
- Higher Education and Career Path Skills 0.5 credits
- Elective credits will reduce by 1 credit for each diploma option
- **Personal Education Plan** is required.

Modified Diploma

Criteria for a Modified Diploma

Inability to meet the full set of academic content standards even with reasonable accommodation and:

- documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student; or
- a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement
- A student's team may decide to revise a modified diploma decision.

Credits for a Modified Diploma

24 Credits and varies from standard diploma.

- Regular and/or modified curriculum with/without accommodations.
- Credit by proficiency.

Essential Skills a for Modified Diploma

In addition to credit requirements, students must demonstrate essential skills in reading, writing, and mathematics (R/W/M) through one or more of the following options:

For students NOT on IEPs or 504s,

- Smarter Balanced English Language Arts Assessment
- Smarter Balanced Math Assessment
- Work Samples with/without Modifications
- Work Keys
- Other options as defined in the Oregon Essential Skills Manual
- Any modifications to Work Samples must have been provided to the students during their instruction in the content area to be assessed

For students on IEPs or 504s

- Smarter Balanced English Language Arts with Modified Cut/Passing Scores
- Smarter Balanced Math with Modified Cut/Passing Scores
- Work Samples with/without Modifications
- Extended Assessment (no modifications)
- Other options as defined in the Oregon Essential Skills Manual. *Essential Skills are suspended through to the 2027-28 school year.*

Beginning in January 2027 Standard and Modified Diplomas will require:

- Personal Financial Education 0.5 credits
- Higher Education and Career Path Skills 0.5 credits
- Elective credits will reduce by 1 credit for each diploma option
- Personal Education Plan is required with or without modifications

Extended Diploma

Criteria for an Extended Diploma

Inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high school diploma even with reasonable modifications and accommodations, and:

- 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, and/or;
- serious illness or injury that occurs after grade eight.

Credits for an Extended Diploma

12 Credits. See FAQ for specifics.

Essential Skills for an Extended Diploma

Exempt

Certificate of Attendance

Criteria for Certificate of Attendance

Inability to satisfy the requirements for a high school diploma, a modified diploma or an extended diploma.

- Meets requirements established by the school, IEP, or 504 team.

Credits for Certificate of Attendance

Determined by the School Team.

Essential Skills for Certificate of Attendance

Exempt

Prior Notice and Consent for Alternative High School Diploma/Certificate Form

This form can be found on the district QAM site as INS-F051-Diplomas. A copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards to the parent in their native language is recommended.

NOTE: Beginning January 2027 Oregon Standard and Modified Diplomas will require the following:

Personal Finance Education: 0.5 credits
Higher Education and Career Path Skills: 0.5 Credits

Elective credits will reduce by 1.0 credit for each diploma option.

Sample Letter for State Alternative Assessments

Student: _____ ID# _____

[School Letterhead]

Dear Parent or Guardian,

According to Oregon Administrative Rules and District Policy, the school district is providing you with notice of high school diploma options in Salem-Keizer Public Schools. This notice will be provided to you annually as long as your student is taking state alternative assessments.

> *Beginning in grade five, school districts shall annually provide information to the parents or guardians of a student taking an alternate assessment of the availability of a modified diploma, extended diploma, and alternative certificate and the requirements for each.*
>
> *School districts shall ensure that students have access to the appropriate resources to achieve a modified diploma, extended diploma, or certificate of attainment at each high school in the school district or at the public charter school.*
>
> *A school district may award a modified or extended diploma to a student only upon the consent of the parent or guardian of the student. A district or school must receive the consent in writing and during the school year in which the modified or extended diploma is awarded. The requirement for obtaining the consent of a student's parent or guardian does not apply to a student who is emancipated or has reached the age of majority of 18 years of age or older at the time the modified or extended diploma is awarded.*

The attachment, *Salem-Keizer Diploma Graduation Options At-A-Glance,* describes diploma options available through Salem-Keizer Public Schools. Please take the time to read through this document and note the options that may be available to your student for high school completion.

Should you have any questions regarding high school diploma options and requirements, do not hesitate to contact your student's high school counselor or special education case manager.

Please sign below indicating you have been notified of the diploma options available in our district. A copy will be delivered to you.

I have received notification of the district's high school diploma options available for our student.

_____ _____

Parent Signature **Date**

Modified Diploma FAQ

What is a modified diploma?

A modified diploma is a high school completion document that may be earned by students who have demonstrated an inability to meet the full set of academic content standards required for a standard high school diploma, even with reasonable accommodations. To be eligible for a modified diploma, students 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.

Why would students earn a modified diploma instead of a standard high school diploma?

Students are unable to meet the full set of academic content standards, even with reasonable accommodation, but may be able to fulfill all requirements for the modified diploma. The Modified Diploma requires 24 units of credit. Credits may be earned through modified courses, general education courses (with or without accommodations or modifications) or a combination of these two types.

Can students earning a modified diploma participate in the high school graduation ceremony?

Yes, students receiving a modified diploma shall be offered the option of participating in the high school graduation ceremony with the members of their class.

Can school districts call the modified diploma something other than a "modified diploma"?

No. The Legislature has indicated their intent to have statewide uniformity for high school diplomas.

Do parents require annual notification of the modified diploma option if the student is not taking an alternate assessment?

The District is only required to provide information annually to the parents or guardians of a student taking an alternate assessment of the availability and requirements for the modified diploma, beginning in grade five.

Do charter schools have to provide all diploma options?

Public charter schools must ensure that all students have access to the appropriate resources to achieve all high school diploma options.

Who is eligible to earn a modified diploma?

The modified diploma may be awarded to any student who has demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards, even with reasonable modifications and accommodation and:

- A documented history of the 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.

What is “documented history?”

Evidence in the cumulative record and education plans of a student demonstrates the inability over time to maintain grade level achievement even with appropriate modifications and accommodations.

What is an “instructional barrier?”

An instructional barrier is a significant physical, cognitive or emotional barrier that impairs a student’s ability to maintain grade level achievement.

What are examples of Instructional barriers and significant learning barriers?

Instructional Barrier

Intermittent panic attacks prevent the student from attending and participating in school on a regular basis and responding to instruction without significant modifications.

Instructional Barrier

The level of comprehension, either concrete or abstract. A student who functions on a concrete level and is unable to comprehend the abstract would not be able to maintain grade level achievement, particularly in math and science, unless content were presented concretely, even with intense instruction.

Significant Learning Barrier

A specific learning disability in math that would not allow the student to succeed beyond a certain grade level even with a variety of accommodations and modifications and intense instructional opportunities.

Who is NOT eligible to earn a modified diploma?

Students who are currently engaged in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol are excluded from consideration if the significant learning and instructional barriers are due to the use of illegal drugs or alcohol.

Can students graduating with a modified diploma continue public education to age 21?

- If a student is **not on an IEP** and graduates with a modified diploma, the school district must admit and allow the student to pursue a standard diploma through the age of 19.
- If a student **is on an IEP** and graduates with a modified diploma, the student remains entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) through the age of 21.

Does a general education student who cannot pass the Smarter Balanced Assessment or demonstrate proficiency in certain essential skills through an approved local option automatically become eligible for a Modified Diploma?

No. Failure to meet the requirements for a regular high school diploma does not automatically make the student eligible for the MD. Students must meet the full set of eligibility criteria in order to receive the MD, including having a documented history of the 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.

Who determines if a student is eligible for a modified diploma?

- If a student is **not on an IEP,** a school team determines if a student should pursue a modified diploma. The team should include the student and must include a parent or guardian.
- If a student **is on an IEP,** the student’s IEP team determines if a student will work toward obtaining a modified diploma.

Does a school district need parental permission to award a modified diploma?

Written consent from the parent/guardian/surrogate/adult student is required during the school year in which the modified diploma is awarded.

Can school teams change the diploma decision for students?

Yes, an IEP or school team may change the decision as to what diploma option a student will work toward. The team may determine at any time that the student should work toward a more rigorous option (e.g., change from modified to regular or extended to modified) as long as the student meets any criteria associated with the new diploma type. A team may determine that a student working toward a more rigorous option should pursue a less rigorous option (e.g., change from regular to modified or modified to extended) only if the student meets the eligibility criteria for that option.

How will students or parents know that high school coursework has been modified?

Both the student and parent must be notified if high school courses have been modified. The student transcript will identify modified courses.

Must all the courses be modified for a modified diploma?

Students may earn units of credit through general education courses (with or without accommodations) and/or modified courses. When one or more courses containing substantial academic content are modified, those courses may count toward a modified diploma but do not count toward a standard diploma.

What is modified curriculum?

Modified curriculum refers to coursework that has been systematically changed or altered for a student only after reasonable alternative instructional strategies and accommodations are exhausted. Modifications are made to assist students in progressing towards academic standards and are determined by the school, IEP, or 504 team.

What are the graduation requirements for students receiving a modified diploma?

Students are required to:

- Earn 24 units of credit
- Complete the Personalized Learning Requirements
- Demonstrate proficiency in the required Essential Skills

What are the math course/credit requirements for a modified diploma?

Students are required to earn 2 credits in math. No specific math courses, such as Algebra I, are required. Credit could also be earned in courses at a higher level of proficiency, with modifications.

May students earn elective credits for work experience completed during the summer?

If the work experience fulfills District requirements, credit(s) may be awarded.

What is the “minimum” number of modified courses that students can apply toward a standard diploma?

Students may take as many modified courses as necessary; however, modified courses cannot be applied toward the 24 units of credit required for the standard diploma.

Other than credit/coursework, what are the other requirements when earning a modified diploma?

Students receiving a modified or a standard diploma are expected to:

- Develop an education plan and build an education profile
- Be aware of the option to earn credit for proficiency

- Build a collection of evidence (or include evidence in an existing collection) to demonstrate extended application of the standards
- Demonstrate proficiency in essential skills

What are the required Essential Skills?

- Read and comprehend a variety of text.
- Write clearly and accurately.
- Apply mathematics in a variety of settings.

Are modifications allowed in demonstration of the Essential Skills?

For students who are not on an IEP or a 504 Plan

Work samples may be modified according to the modifications the student is currently receiving in the content area being assessed. These modifications must be approved in advance by the student's school team responsible for monitoring the student's progress. Students who are not on an IEP or a 504 Plan may not work towards a modified passing/cut score.

For students on an IEP or 504 Plan

Passing/cut scores on Smarter Balanced and/or works samples may be modified according to the IEP or 504 Plan and must be compliant with Administration of State Tests guidelines. Modified cut scores must be determined prior to administration of the assessment.

How does a team determine the modified cut score for a student?

Step 1: Identify the student's OAKS or Smarter Balanced Math or Reading score and percentile from previous year(s) assessment. Consult the percentile tables on Oregon Department of Education's (ODE) Conversion Tables: Scale Score to Percentile Rank (https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/pages/assessment-percentile-tables.aspx).

Step 2: Using the student's Math or Reading score and percentile from previous year(s), find the specific content area's percentile and range of scores within the content area (ELA-Reading or Mathematics)

Step 3: Using the Smarter Balanced percentile and range of scores, identify the specific "modified cut score" for the student and put this score on the Statewide Assessment page of the student's IEP.

Accountability and data can be found on ODE's Accountability Data Briefs (https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/Pages/Accountability-Data-Briefs.aspx).

Will the modified diploma be accepted by community colleges or four-year universities?

Community college courses are available to students who have a modified diploma. All new, non-transfer freshmen are required to take a placement exam that indicates course levels required in reading, language arts (comprehension and writing) and mathematics. Community colleges offer remedial courses that do not count toward college credit. Most four-year universities do not accept a modified diploma; however, an appeal may be considered by some universities.

Will the modified diploma be accepted by the military?

Some branches of the military may accept a modified diploma. Acceptance depends on the current needs of the military; however, criteria may change quickly. Students and their parents should check with recruiters to

determine if a modified diploma is currently being accepted. All branches of the service have minimum scores required for entry on a placement test called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

Will students who receive a modified diploma be eligible for Federal student financial aid at a post-secondary institution?

Yes, The United States Department of Education (USDOE) has recently determined the Oregon Modified Diploma meets the eligibility requirement for Federal student financial aid.

Want to learn more about Modified Diploma state rules?

More information about Modified Diplomas may be found at Oregon Secretary of State Administrative Rules on Modified Diplomas.

Extended Diploma FAQ

What is an extended diploma?

An extended diploma is a high school completion document that may be earned by students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) who have demonstrated an inability to meet the full set of academic content standards required for a standard or modified high school diploma, even with reasonable accommodations.

Why would students earn an extended diploma instead of a standard or modified high school diploma?

Students are unable to meet the full set of academic content standards, even with reasonable accommodations and modifications, but may be able to fulfill all requirements for an extended diploma. The Extended Diploma requires 12 units of credit, 6 of which may be earned in a self-contained, special education classroom.

Can students earning an extended diploma participate in the high school graduation ceremony?

Yes, students receiving an extended diploma shall be offered the option of participating in the high school graduation ceremony with the members of their class.

Can school districts call the extended diploma something other than an "extended diploma?"

No. The Legislature has indicated their intent to have statewide uniformity for high school diplomas.

Do parents need to be notified annually of the extended diploma option?

Yes, the District is required to provide information annually to the parents or guardians of a student taking an alternate assessment of the availability and requirements for the extended diploma, beginning in grade five.

Who is eligible to earn an extended diploma?

The extended diploma may be awarded to any student on an IEP who has demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards, even with reasonable modifications and accommodations, and:

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

- A change in a student's ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurs after grade eight

What is "documented history?"

Evidence in the cumulative record and education plans of a student that demonstrates the inability over time to maintain grade level achievement even with appropriate modifications and accommodations.

What is an "instructional barrier?"

An instructional barrier is a significant physical, cognitive or emotional barrier that impairs a student's ability to maintain grade level achievement.

What are examples of Instructional barriers and significant learning barriers?

Instructional Barrier

Intermittent panic attacks that prevent the student from attending and participating in school on a regular basis and responding to instruction without significant modifications.

Instructional Barrier

The level of comprehension, either concrete or abstract. A student who functions on a concrete level and is unable to comprehend the abstract would not be able to maintain grade level achievement, particularly in math and science, unless content were presented concretely, even with intense instruction.

Significant Learning Barrier

A specific learning disability in math that would not allow the student to succeed beyond a certain grade level even with a variety of accommodations and modifications and intense instructional opportunities.

Can students who graduate with an extended diploma continue public education until the age of 21?

- If a student is **not on an IEP** and graduates with a modified diploma, the school district must admit and allow the student to pursue a standard diploma through the age of 19.
- If a student **is on an IEP** and graduates with a modified diploma, the student remains entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) through the age of 21.

Who determines if students are eligible for an extended diploma?

- If a student is **not on an IEP**, a school team determines if a student should pursue an extended diploma. The team should include the student and must include a parent or guardian.
- If a student **is on an IEP**, the student's IEP team determines if a student will work toward obtaining an extended diploma.

Does a school district need parental permission to award an extended diploma?

Written consent from the parent/guardian/surrogate/adult student is required during the school year in which the modified diploma is awarded.

Can a school team change the diploma decision for students in their junior or senior year?

Yes, an IEP or school team may change the decision as to what diploma option a student will work toward. The team may determine at any time that the student should work toward a more rigorous option (e.g., change from modified to regular or extended to modified) as long as the student meets any criteria associated with the new

diploma type. A team may determine that a student working toward a more rigorous option should pursue a less rigorous option (e.g., change from regular to modified or modified to extended) only if the student meets the eligibility criteria for that option.

Must all the courses be modified for an extended diploma?

Students may earn units of credit through general education courses (with or without accommodations) and/or modified courses. When one or more courses contain substantial academic content that has been modified, those courses may count toward an extended or modified diploma, but do not count toward a standard diploma.

What is modified curriculum?

Modified curriculum refers to coursework that has been systematically changed or altered for a student only after reasonable alternative instructional strategies and accommodations are exhausted. Modifications are made to assist students in progressing towards academic standards and are determined by the school, IEP, or 504 team.

Which courses are available for credit in self-contained classrooms?

Various Planned Course Statements have been developed to support self- contained teachers in aligning coursework with content standards for students with more significant cognitive disabilities. For a list of these courses and descriptions, visit SKSD Planned Course Statement.

What are the graduation requirements for students receiving an extended diploma?

Students are required to earn 12 units of credit, 6 or less credits earned in a self-contained special education classroom:

Math (2)	English/Language	Fine Arts (1)
Science (2)	Social Studies (3)	Electives (0)
PE (1)	Health (1)	Arts (2)

May students earn elective credits for work experience completed during the summer?

If the work experience fulfills District requirements, credit(s) may be awarded.

Will the extended diploma be accepted by community colleges or four-year universities?

No diploma is required for entrance to a community college. All new, non-transfer freshmen are required to take a placement exam that indicates course levels required in reading, language arts (comprehension and writing) and mathematics. Community colleges offer remedial courses that do not count toward college credit. Four-year universities do not accept an extended diploma.

Will students who receive an Extended diploma be eligible for Federal student financial aid at a post-secondary institution?

Students earning an Extended diploma are not eligible for Federal student financial aid.

Will the extended diploma be accepted by the military?

The military does not accept an extended diploma.

Want to learn more about Extended Diploma state rules?

More information about the Extended Diploma and other graduation options may be found at Oregon Secretary of State Administrative Rules on Extended Diplomas.