

Medford School District 549C

Code: IF
Adopted: 4/05/05
Revised/Readopted: 6/17/19; 11/17/22; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code(s): IF

Curriculum Development and Adoption

The Board recognizes a need for a systematic ongoing program of curriculum development and improvement. The Board expects the administration and staff to use the adopted curriculum renewal procedures to investigate new instructional materials, and to recommend modification of current written curriculum, changes in curriculum content, and addition of new courses and offerings within each instructional program. The Teaching and Learning Department shall be responsible for coordinating the development of District curricular guidelines for new instructional programs and classes.

Curriculum development will help each student realize their potential and graduate ready for college, career, and post-secondary experiences. The curriculum will establish a system that ensures students have equitable access to learn the same core of significant learnings at a particular instructional level, regardless of the teacher assigned or the school attended.

DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM

Once curriculum needs are identified, the Teaching and Learning Department will establish a timeline for instructional resource review and convene a selection committee as needed.

For cycles of curriculum adoptions, in all subject areas, representation from each building will be sought, with an attempt toward every grade level being represented. The Teaching and Learning Department will work with the Medford Education Association president/designee to include association representation.

The curriculum development cycle will include five phases:

- Phase 1: Identify Curriculum Needs
- Phase 2: Alignment of Standards, Sequence, Assessment and Resources
- Phase 3: Curriculum Implementation
- Phase 4: Curriculum Evaluation
- Phase 5: Curriculum Renewal

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT

Medford School District will provide aligned Curriculum Guides that promote success for all students. Curriculum alignment principles are reflected in Board policies, Curriculum Guides, instructional resources, staff development, instructional practices, student assessments, facilities, and budgeting. The alignment of Curriculum Guides will coordinate what is written, taught, and assessed to create K-12 congruence both horizontally and vertically.

An aligned, high-quality written curriculum will:

- Ensure that all students receive appropriate instruction.
- Ensure the consistency of what is taught among teachers within the same grade or subject area and across grade levels.
- Ensure alignment of the written, taught, and assessed curriculum.
- Provide equitable access to the curriculum for every student.

All central office administration, building administration, and teachers will implement the standards-aligned written curriculum to support increased student learning and success.

CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION

Subject area written curriculum and Curriculum Guides shall be developed for all grade levels and subjects in the District. The format of Curriculum Guides and expected components are outlined in the Board approved Curriculum Management Plan.

For the purposes of continuously improving student performance, while also maintaining flexibility to reach each student's unique needs, curriculum components will be identified in the Board adopted Curriculum Management Plan as tightly-held or loosely-held. Tightly-held components will require decisions made at the District level. Loosely-held components will be determined and managed at the building level. Tightly-held and loosely-held curricular elements are outlined in the Board approved Curriculum Management Plan.

CURRICULUM EVALUATION

The written curriculum will be evaluated on a periodic cycle as outlined in the Curriculum Management Plan. The purpose of the curriculum evaluation will be to assess the effectiveness of the curriculum in any content area.

Each program will take responsibility for acquiring feedback to ensure the curriculum responds to:

- Students' current and anticipated needs for knowledge and skills in the particular discipline;
- Emerging trends and current research in content and modes of instruction;
- Opportunities for collaboration within the discipline and across disciplines;
- Opportunities to explore supplementary resources to enrich the classroom education, provide real-time exploration, and apply competencies;
- The role of technology in supporting teaching and learning;
- Appropriate assessment strategies;
- Progress towards District/Board goals.

CURRICULUM ADOPTION

The Board is required by statute to approve and adopt the written curriculum of the school district. The Teaching and Learning Department will review each content area curriculum on a multiyear cycle. Updates to the written curriculum will be presented to the Board for approval as outlined in the Curriculum Management Plan.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A GUARANTEED & VIABLE CURRICULUM:

All District staff members are responsible for ensuring that all students learn the Oregon State Learning Standards through the District’s curriculum and demonstrate achievement at high levels. As a function of responsibilities, the Curriculum Management Plan provides specifics related to the roles and responsibilities, although responsibilities are not limited solely to those listed. The superintendent, in cooperation with the Teaching and Learning Department and other appropriate staff, shall make curriculum recommendations to the Board for their consideration and adoption.

The superintendent and administration shall make regular reports to the Board on items concerning curriculum

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 243.650](#)
[ORS 332.075\(1\)](#)
[ORS 336.035](#)
[ORS 336.067](#)
[ORS 337.260](#)

[ORS 659.850](#)
[OAR 581-021-0045](#)
[OAR 581-021-0046](#)
[OAR 581-022-2000](#)
[OAR 581-022-2030](#)

[OAR 581-022-2250](#)
[OAR 581-022-2300](#)
[OAR 581-022-2305](#)
[OAR 581-022-2310](#)
[OAR 581-022-2315](#)

[Senate Bill 1098 \(2025\)](#)

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[OAR 581-022-2310](#)
[OAR 581-022-2315](#)

Senate Bill 1098 (2025)

Medford School District 549C

Code: IIA
Adopted: 10/10/16
Revised/Readopted: 1/09/20; 2/17/22; 3/16/23; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code: IIA

~~Instructional Resources~~/Instructional Materials

The Board believes that proper care and judgment should be exercised in selecting ~~basic~~ instructional materials. While the Board retains the authority to approve district instructional materials adoptions, it authorizes the superintendent or designee to develop and implement administrative regulations governing how selections are determined. Such procedures will provide for administrator, staff, parent, student and community involvement and employ suitable selection criteria to ensure that the recommended instructional materials will meet the needs of the program, students, teachers and community.

The district will review instructional materials in accordance with the curriculum review process in the Curriculum Management Plan, which will meet or exceed the State Board of Education adoption cycle. All core instructional materials will be reviewed on a seven year cycle and recommendations for core instructional materials will be made. The district will establish procedures for a periodic review of all resources for alignment to the content of the district curriculum and assessment in all three dimensions: content, context, and cognitive type, prior to adoption for use.

Instructional resources will reflect the strengths, needs, cultures, and backgrounds of students. The district will follow the curriculum review procedures in the Curriculum Management Plan to identify areas where supplementary materials are needed. Recommended instructional resources and supplementary materials will be aligned to state standards and will be free of content that may discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, or sexual bias. These materials will contain appropriate readability levels, support the District's adopted curriculum content, provide ease of teacher use, be attractive and durable, be age appropriate, and be purchased at a reasonable cost.

The district will establish a process and timeline for regularly determining and considering whether the textbooks and other instructional materials are available through online resources that enable students with print disabilities to receive textbooks and instructional materials free of charge.

All instructional materials on the state adoption schedule recommended for adoption will be approved for use by the Board. Prior to Board approval, parents and interested district patrons will have the opportunity to review the recommended instructional materials and be encouraged to provide opinions about them and their use in the classrooms.

To be in compliance with the requirements of federal law, the Board directs the superintendent to distribute curriculum materials and instructional supplies to district schools in such a manner that ensures all schools receive equivalent materials.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[~~ORS 174.100~~](#)
[~~ORS 332.107~~](#)
[~~ORS 336.035~~](#)
[~~ORS 336.082~~](#)
[~~ORS 336.840~~](#)

[ORS 337.120](#)
[ORS 337.141](#)
[ORS 337.150](#)
[ORS 337.260](#)
[ORS 337.511](#)

[ORS 339.155](#)
[~~ORS 659.850~~](#)

[OAR 581-011-0050 - 0117](#)
[OAR 581-021-0045](#)

[OAR 581-021-0046](#)
[OAR 581-022-2310](#)

[OAR 581-022-2340](#)
[OAR 581-022-2350](#)

[OAR 581-022-2355](#)

Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6311-6322 (~~2018~~ 2024).

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2024); 28 C.F.R. §§ 42.101-42.106 (2024).

Title IX of the Education Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683, 1701, 1703-1705, 1720 (2024);

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2020).

Americans with Disabilities Act/Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2024); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2024); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2024).

Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107 (2024).

~~House Bill 3041 (2021).~~

Senate Bill 1098 (2025).

Medford School District 549C

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[ORS 659](#).850

[OAR 581](#)-011-0050 - 0117
[OAR 581](#)-021-0045

[OAR 581](#)-021-0046
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Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101-6107 (2024).

Senate Bill 1098 (2025).

Medford School District 549C

Code: IKF
Adopted: 4/21/81
Revised/Readopted: 3/02/15; 4/24/17; 2/12/15;
5/21/20; 2/17/22; 10/20/22;
2/20/25; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code: IKF

Graduation Requirements**

The Board will establish graduation requirements for awarding of a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma and a certificate of attendance which meet or exceed state requirements.

A student may satisfy graduation requirements in less than four years. The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years if consent is given by the student's parent or guardian or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or emancipated.

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. In foster care¹;
2. Experiencing houselessness²;
3. A runaway;
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;
6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program;
or
7. Enrolled in an approved recovery school under ORS 336.680³.

¹ As defined in ORS 30.297.

² See OAR 581-022-2000 for additional information.

³ Applies to high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026.

For any student identified above, the district shall accept any credits earned by the student in an educational program⁴ in this state, applying those credits toward the state requirements for a diploma if the credits satisfied those requirements in that educational program in this state.

Diploma

A high school diploma will be awarded to students in grades 9 through 12 who complete a minimum of 24 credits which include at least:

1. Three credits in mathematics (shall include one unit at the Algebra I level and two units that are at a level higher than Algebra I);
2. Four credits in English/language arts⁵ (shall include the equivalent of one unit in written composition);
3. Three credits in science;
4. Three credits in social sciences (shall include 0.5 unit of US civics⁶ credit in addition to at least 2.5 units of credit aligned to the Oregon State Board adopted standards for US and world history, geography, economics, and financial literacy⁷);
5. One-half credit of higher education and career path skills⁸;
6. One-half credit of personal financial education⁹;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by a school administrator in advance);

⁴ “Educational program in this state” means an educational program that is provided by a school district, a public charter school, an approved recovery school (applies to diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026), the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Program, or funded as provided by ORS 343.243 for students in a long term care or treatment facility described in ORS 343.961 or a hospital identified in ORS 343.261.

⁵ “Language arts” includes reading, writing and other communications in any language, including English.

⁶ Civics becomes a half-credit requirement beginning on January 1, 2026 (ORS 329.451).

⁷ This requirement is replaced with a one-half credit of personal financial education requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year.

⁸ Higher education and career path skills becomes a one-half credit graduation requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year (a requirement for a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2027; a district may request a one-year waiver in accordance with law).

⁹ Personal finance education becomes a one-half credit graduation requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year (a requirement for a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2027; a district may request a one-year waiver in accordance with law).

9. Three credits in career and technical education, the arts or world languages¹⁰ (units shall be earned in any one or a combination).

The district shall offer students credit options provided the method for obtaining such credits as described in the student's personal education plan (including the ability to earn dual credit, credit through internships and externships) as long as the credit earned meets requirements described in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-2025.

A 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, complete the statewide assessments, 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 high school diploma.

To receive a diploma, in addition to credit requirements outlined above, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing, and applying mathematics in a variety of settings;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s)); and
4. Participate in career-related learning experiences.

Modified Diploma

A modified diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a high school diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. A modified diploma may only be awarded to a student who meets the eligibility criteria below and other criteria, if applicable, outlined in OAR 581-022-2010(3):

1. The student has a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
2. The student has 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 with at least 13 of those credits to include:

¹⁰ "World language" includes sign language, heritage language and languages other than a student's primary language.

1. Three credits in English/language arts;
2. Two credits in mathematics;
3. Two credits in science;
4. Two credits in social sciences (including history, civics, geography, economics, or personal finance;
5. One-half credit in personal financial education¹¹;
6. One-half credit in higher education and career path skills¹²;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by a school administrator in advance);
9. One credit in career technical education, the arts or world languages (units may be earned in any one or a combination).

Students may earn additional credits to earn a modified diploma pursuant to OAR 581-022-2010. In addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2010, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing and apply mathematics in a variety of settings¹³;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile; and
3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s)).

A student must also demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations.

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

1. For a student on an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must be consistent with the requirements established in the IEP or 504 plan. Modifications include practices and procedures that compromise the intent of the assessment through a change in the achievement level, construct, or measured outcome of the assessment. This means that IEP or 504 school teams responsible for approving modifications for a student's assessment may

¹¹¹¹ This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹² This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹³ The State Board of Education has waived this requirement in Essential Skills for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

adjust the administration of the assessment and/or the assessment's achievement standard. The IEP or 504 team must inform the student's parent that the use of a modification on an assessment will result in an invalid assessment;

2. For a student not on an IEP or 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.

Students not on an IEP or a Section 504 Plan may not receive a modified Oregon State assessment. A student's school team (which must include an adult student, parent/guardian of the student) shall decide if a student will 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.

For students with a documented history as described above, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of students, beginning in grade five or after such documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas, **extended diplomas** and the requirements for such diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any reporting for the State or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Essential Skills

The district will allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in all required Essential Skills in the student's language of origin for a high school diploma or a modified diploma.

The district will develop procedures to provide assessment options as described in the Local Performance Assessment Manual, in the ELL student's language of origin, 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 establish an appeal 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.

Extended Diploma

An extended diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a high school diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for an extended diploma, a student must:

1. While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 12 credits, which may not include more than 6 credits in a self-contained special education classroom and will include:
 - a. Two credits in mathematics;
 - b. Two credits in English/language arts;
 - c. Two credits in science;
 - d. Three credits in history, geography, economics or civics;
 - e. One credit in health;
 - f. One credit in physical education and (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by school administrator in advance);
 - g. One credit in the arts or a world language; and
2. Have a documented history of:
 - a. An inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers;
 - b. A medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement; or
 - c. A change in the student's ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight.

For students with a documented history, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of such students, beginning in grade five or after such documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas, **extended diplomas** and the requirements for such diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any reporting for the state or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Certificate of Attendance

A certificate of attendance¹⁴ will be awarded to students who:

¹⁴ A student who began grade 9 before July 1, 2020, may be awarded an alternative certificate if the student satisfies the requirements for an alternative certificate which are in effect on the day before July 1, 2024.

1. Have maintained regular full-time attendance¹⁵ for at least four years beginning in grade nine;
2. Do not satisfy requirements for a high school diploma, modified diploma or extended diploma; and
3. Have a documented history¹⁶.

For students with a documented history¹⁷, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of such students, beginning in grade five or after such a documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas, **extended diplomas** and the requirements for the diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any required reporting for the State or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Other District Responsibilities

The district will ensure that all students have onsite access to the appropriate resources and courses to achieve high school diplomas, modified diplomas, and extended diplomas at each high school in the district. The district will provide developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

The district may not deny a student who has the documented history listed under the modified diploma or extended diploma requirements outlined above the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements, for the sole reason the student has the document history.

The district may award a modified diploma or an extended diploma to a student only upon the written consent of a student who is an emancipated minor or who has reached the age of 18 (adult student) at the time the modified or extended diploma is awarded, or the student's parent or guardian. The district must receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma or the extended diploma is awarded.

A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance in either the later of 4 years after starting grade 9, or until the student reaches the age of 21 years if the student is entitled to a public education until the age of 21 under state or federal law.

¹⁵ "Regular full-time attendance" means not being absent for more than 10 percent of school days that the student is enrolled in a school year. See OAR 581-020-0631 for definition of chronic absenteeism. Excused absences are considered absences for this purpose.

¹⁶ "Documented history" means 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.

¹⁷ "Documented history" means 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.

A student may complete the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance in less than four years but not less than three years. To satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance in less than 4 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.

A student who qualifies to receive or receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or a certificate of attendance shall have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

A student who receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or a certificate of attendance shall have access to instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services that are designed to meet the unique needs of the student. When added together, the district will provide a total number of hours of instruction and services to the student that equals at least the total number of instructional hours that is required to be provided to students who are attending a public high school. The district may not unilaterally decrease the total number of hours of instruction and services to which the student has access regardless of the age of the student.

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 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, a certificate of attendance or completion of a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities for a modified diploma, extended diploma or certificate of attendance 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 district may not deny a diploma to a student who has opted out of statewide assessments if the student is able to satisfy all other requirements for the diploma. Students who opt-out will need to meet the Essential Skills graduation requirement using another approved assessment option. Students may opt-out of the Oregon statewide assessments in language arts and/or mathematics by completing the Oregon Department of Education's Opt-out Form¹⁸ and submitting the form to the district.

The district will issue a high school diploma 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.

¹⁸ Oregon Department of Education page for: [30-day notice and opt-out form](#)

The district shall establish conduct and discipline consequences for student-initiated test impropriety. The act of student-initiated test impropriety is prohibited. A student that participates in an act of student-initiated test impropriety will be subject to discipline. “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.

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[OAR 581-021-0009](#)
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[OAR 581-022-2115](#)
[OAR 581-022-2120](#)
[OAR 581-022-2505](#)

Test Administration Manual, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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Cross Reference(s):

IKFB - Graduation Exercises
IL - Assessment Program

Medford School District 549C

Code: IKF
Adopted: 4/21/81
Revised/Readopted: 3/02/15; 4/24/17; 2/12/15;
5/21/20; 2/17/22; 10/20/22;
2/20/25; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code: IKF

Graduation Requirements**

The Board will establish graduation requirements for awarding of a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma and a certificate of attendance which meet or exceed state requirements.

A student may satisfy graduation requirements in less than four years. The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years if consent is given by the student's parent or guardian or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or emancipated.

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. In foster care¹;
2. Experiencing houselessness²;
3. A runaway;
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;
6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program;
or
7. Enrolled in an approved recovery school under ORS 336.680³.

¹ As defined in ORS 30.297.

² See OAR 581-022-2000 for additional information.

³ Applies to high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026.

For any student identified above, the district shall accept any credits earned by the student in an educational program⁴ in this state, applying those credits toward the state requirements for a diploma if the credits satisfied those requirements in that educational program in this state.

Diploma

A high school diploma will be awarded to students in grades 9 through 12 who complete a minimum of 24 credits which include at least:

1. Three credits in mathematics (shall include one unit at the Algebra I level and two units that are at a level higher than Algebra I);
2. Four credits in English/language arts⁵ (shall include the equivalent of one unit in written composition);
3. Three credits in science;
4. Three credits in social sciences (shall include 0.5 unit of US civics⁶ credit in addition to at least 2.5 units of credit aligned to the Oregon State Board adopted standards for US and world history, geography, economics, and financial literacy⁷);
5. One-half credit of higher education and career path skills⁸;
6. One-half credit of personal financial education⁹;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by a school administrator in advance);

⁴ “Educational program in this state” means an educational program that is provided by a school district, a public charter school, an approved recovery school (applies to diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026), the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Program, or funded as provided by ORS 343.243 for students in a long term care or treatment facility described in ORS 343.961 or a hospital identified in ORS 343.261.

⁵ “Language arts” includes reading, writing and other communications in any language, including English.

⁶ Civics becomes a half-credit requirement beginning on January 1, 2026 (ORS 329.451).

⁷ This requirement is replaced with a one-half credit of personal financial education requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year.

⁸ Higher education and career path skills becomes a one-half credit graduation requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year (a requirement for a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2027; a district may request a one-year waiver in accordance with law).

⁹ Personal finance education becomes a one-half credit graduation requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year (a requirement for a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2027; a district may request a one-year waiver in accordance with law).

9. Three credits in career and technical education, the arts or world languages¹⁰ (units shall be earned in any one or a combination).

The district shall offer students credit options provided the method for obtaining such credits as described in the student's personal education plan (including the ability to earn dual credit, credit through internships and externships) as long as the credit earned meets requirements described in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-2025.

A 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, complete the statewide assessments, 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 high school diploma.

To receive a diploma, in addition to credit requirements outlined above, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing, and applying mathematics in a variety of settings;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s)); and
4. Participate in career-related learning experiences.

Modified Diploma

A modified diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a high school diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. A modified diploma may only be awarded to a student who meets the eligibility criteria below and other criteria, if applicable, outlined in OAR 581-022-2010(3):

1. The student has a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
2. The student has 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 with at least 13 of those credits to include:

¹⁰ "World language" includes sign language, heritage language and languages other than a student's primary language.

1. Three credits in English/language arts;
2. Two credits in mathematics;
3. Two credits in science;
4. Two credits in social sciences (including history, civics, geography, economics, or personal finance;
5. One-half credit in personal financial education¹¹;
6. One-half credit in higher education and career path skills¹²;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by a school administrator in advance);
9. One credit in career technical education, the arts or world languages (units may be earned in any one or a combination).

Students may earn additional credits to earn a modified diploma pursuant to OAR 581-022-2010. In addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2010, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing and apply mathematics in a variety of settings¹³;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile; and
3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s)).

A student must also demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations.

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

1. For a student on an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must be consistent with the requirements established in the IEP or 504 plan. Modifications include practices and procedures that compromise the intent of the assessment through a change in the achievement level, construct, or measured outcome of the assessment. This means that IEP or 504 school teams responsible for approving modifications for a student's assessment may

¹¹¹¹ This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹² This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹³ The State Board of Education has waived this requirement in Essential Skills for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

adjust the administration of the assessment and/or the assessment's achievement standard. The IEP or 504 team must inform the student's parent that the use of a modification on an assessment will result in an invalid assessment;

2. For a student not on an IEP or 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.

Students not on an IEP or a Section 504 Plan may not receive a modified Oregon State assessment. A student's school team (which must include an adult student, parent/guardian of the student) shall decide if a student will 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.

For students with a documented history as described above, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of students, beginning in grade five or after such documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas, extended diplomas and the requirements for such diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any reporting for the State or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Essential Skills

The district will allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in all required Essential Skills in the student's language of origin for a high school diploma or a modified diploma.

The district will develop procedures to provide assessment options as described in the Local Performance Assessment Manual, in the ELL student's language of origin, 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 establish an appeal 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.

Extended Diploma

An extended diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a high school diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for an extended diploma, a student must:

1. While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 12 credits, which may not include more than 6 credits in a self-contained special education classroom and will include:
 - a. Two credits in mathematics;
 - b. Two credits in English/language arts;
 - c. Two credits in science;
 - d. Three credits in history, geography, economics or civics;
 - e. One credit in health;
 - f. One credit in physical education and (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by school administrator in advance);
 - g. One credit in the arts or a world language; and
2. Have a documented history of:
 - a. An inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers;
 - b. A medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement; or
 - c. A change in the student's ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight.

For students with a documented history, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of such students, beginning in grade five or after such documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas, extended diplomas and the requirements for such diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any reporting for the state or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Certificate of Attendance

A certificate of attendance¹⁴ will be awarded to students who:

¹⁴ A student who began grade 9 before July 1, 2020, may be awarded an alternative certificate if the student satisfies the requirements for an alternative certificate which are in effect on the day before July 1, 2024.

1. Have maintained regular full-time attendance¹⁵ for at least four years beginning in grade nine;
2. Do not satisfy requirements for a high school diploma, modified diploma or extended diploma; and
3. Have a documented history¹⁶.

For students with a documented history¹⁷, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of such students, beginning in grade five or after such a documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas, extended diplomas and the requirements for the diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any required reporting for the State or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Other District Responsibilities

The district will ensure that all students have onsite access to the appropriate resources and courses to achieve high school diplomas, modified diplomas, and extended diplomas at each high school in the district. The district will provide developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

The district may not deny a student who has the documented history listed under the modified diploma or extended diploma requirements outlined above the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements, for the sole reason the student has the document history.

The district may award a modified diploma or an extended diploma to a student only upon the written consent of a student who is an emancipated minor or who has reached the age of 18 (adult student) at the time the modified or extended diploma is awarded, or the student's parent or guardian. The district must receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma or the extended diploma is awarded.

A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance in either the later of 4 years after starting grade 9, or until the student reaches the age of 21 years if the student is entitled to a public education until the age of 21 under state or federal law.

¹⁵ "Regular full-time attendance" means not being absent for more than 10 percent of school days that the student is enrolled in a school year. See OAR 581-020-0631 for definition of chronic absenteeism. Excused absences are considered absences for this purpose.

¹⁶ "Documented history" means 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.

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A student who qualifies to receive or receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or a certificate of attendance shall have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

A student who receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or a certificate of attendance shall have access to instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services that are designed to meet the unique needs of the student. When added together, the district will provide a total number of hours of instruction and services to the student that equals at least the total number of instructional hours that is required to be provided to students who are attending a public high school. The district may not unilaterally decrease the total number of hours of instruction and services to which the student has access regardless of the age of the student.

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 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, a certificate of attendance or completion of a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities for a modified diploma, extended diploma or certificate of attendance 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 district may not deny a diploma to a student who has opted out of statewide assessments if the student is able to satisfy all other requirements for the diploma. Students who opt-out will need to meet the Essential Skills graduation requirement using another approved assessment option. Students may opt-out of the Oregon statewide assessments in language arts and/or mathematics by completing the Oregon Department of Education's Opt-out Form¹⁸ and submitting the form to the district.

The district will issue a high school diploma 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.

¹⁸ Oregon Department of Education page for: [30-day notice and opt-out form](#)

The district shall establish conduct and discipline consequences for student-initiated test impropriety. The act of student-initiated test impropriety is prohibited. A student that participates in an act of student-initiated test impropriety will be subject to discipline. “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.

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