

North Wasco County School District 21

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Graduation Requirements**

The Board ~~will~~ **establishes** graduation requirements for the awarding of a regular high school diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma and ~~alternative a~~ certificate **of attendance** which meet or exceed state standards.

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 ~~received~~ **given** by the student's parent or guardian, or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or emancipated.

~~Students and their parents will be notified annually of the requirements for all high school diplomas. See the graduation requirements in the high school student handbook for specific instructions.~~

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~~ **In foster care** ¹ child¹;
2. **Experiencing houselessness** ² ~~Homeless~~;
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; ~~or~~
6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program;
or
7. ³**Enrolled in an approved recovery school under ORS 336.680.**

¹ "Foster child" is ~~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 of 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 of language arts⁵ (shall include the equivalent of one unit in written composition);
3. Three credits of science;
4. Three credits of social sciences (including shall include 0.5 units of US history, 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, and economics. and⁷ financial literacy including personal finance);
5. ⁸One-half credit of higher education and career path skills;
6. ⁹ One-half credit of personal financial education;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education;
9. Three credits in career technology education, the arts or world language¹⁰ (units shall be earned in any one or a combination).
10. Five credits of elective courses; and

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 343.962~~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).

¹⁰ “World languages” includes sign language, heritage languages and languages other than a student’s primary language.

11. Schools may require community service hours to be completed during the four year duration of high school.

The district shall offer students 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 Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-2025.

To receive a diploma, in addition to credit requirements, as outlined in ~~OAR 581-022-2000~~ [above](#), a student must¹¹:

1. [12](#)[Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing and apply 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 collections\(s\)\)](#); 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](#) ~~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~~ [with at least 13 of those credits to](#) include:

3. Two credits of mathematics;
4. Three credits of language arts;
5. Two credits of science;

¹¹~~The proficiency in Essential Skills requirement has been waived and is not a condition of receiving a high school diploma during the 2021-2022, 2022-2023 or 2023-2024 school year (Senate Bill 744, 2021).~~

¹² [The State Board of Education has waived this requirement in Essential Skills for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.](#)

6. Two credits of social sciences (which may include history, civics, geography and economics); ~~including personal finance~~);
7. ¹³One-half credit in personal financial education;
8. ¹⁴One-half credit in higher education and career path skills;
9. One credit in health education;
10. One credit in physical education; ~~and~~
11. One credit in career technical education, the arts or world languages (units may be earned in any one or a combination); ~~and~~
12. Eleven credits in elective courses.

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. ¹⁵Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing and apply mathematics in a variety of settings;
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)).~~

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

1. For a student on an individuated 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 ~~learning expectations~~ the achievement level, construct, or ~~content that is to be measured, grade-level standard or measured outcome of the 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;. 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

¹³ This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹⁴ This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹⁵ The State Board of Education has waived this requirement in Essential Skills for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

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 ~~Smarter-Balanced~~ statewide assessment.

A student's school team (~~which must include an adult student, parent/guardian of the student~~) shall decide ~~that if a student should~~ 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.

~~Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for a modified diploma, the district shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of a modified diploma.~~

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 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.

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 ~~six~~ 6 credits in a self-contained special education classroom, and will include:
 - a. Two credits of **in** mathematics;
 - b. Two credits of **in** language arts;
 - c. Two credits of **in** science;
 - d. Three credits of **in** history, geography, economics or civics;
 - e. One credit of **in** health;
 - f. One credit of **in** physical education; and
 - g. One credit of **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 achievements; 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.

~~Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for an extended diploma, the district shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of an extended diploma.~~ 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 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.

Alternative Certificate

~~Alternative certificates will be awarded to students who do not satisfy the requirements for a diploma, a modified diploma, or an extended diploma if the students meet minimum requirements established by the district.~~

~~Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for an alternative certificate, the district shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of an alternative certificate.~~

Certificate of Attendance

A certificate of attendance¹⁶ will be awarded to students who:

1. Have maintained regular full-time attendance¹⁷ 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

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ There is no established definition of "regular full-time attendance. The district should review any existing attendance definitions, consider the needs of students in the district and establish clear criteria. This should include how excused and unexcused absences are counted. A few options are provided.

"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. ~~will not be counted against a student.~~

"Regular full-time attendance" means not having eight or more unexcused absences in any four-week period during which school is in session. See ORS 339.065 for definition of irregular attendance. This will be calculated on an annual basis and equates to having unexcused absences for less than 20 percent of the days or class periods during which school is in session.

3. Have a documented history¹⁸.

For students with a documented history¹⁹, 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:

4. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas and the requirements for the diplomas; and
5. 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 a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or an alternative certificate at each high school in the district. The district will provide age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

The district may not deny a student the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements than a modified diploma or an extended diploma for the sole reason the student who has the documented history listed under the above 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 shall 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 an alternative a certificate of attendance in either the later of 4 four years after starting the ninth 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.

A student may satisfy complete the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative a certificate of attendance in less than 4 four years but not less than 3 three years. To satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative a certificate of attendance in less than 4 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.

¹⁸ "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.

¹⁹ "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 who qualifies to receive or receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or ~~an alternate~~ 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 ~~an alternate~~ 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. ~~and when~~ 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 are 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 individualized education program (IEP) completes high school, the district will give the student an individualized summary of performance.

Eligible students with disabilities are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education ("FAPE") until the age of 21, even if they have earned a modified diploma, an extended diploma, ~~an alternate~~ a certificate of attendance or completion of a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities who receives for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternate certificate of attendance is contingent on the IEP team determining the student's continued eligibility and need for 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 of the ~~Smarter Balanced or alternate Oregon Extended Assessment~~ Oregon statewide assessments in language arts and/or mathematics by completing the Oregon Department of Education's Opt-out Form²⁰ and submitting the form to the district.

The district will issue a high school diploma, ~~upon request and pursuant to Oregon law (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 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.

END OF POLICY

²⁰ Oregon Department of Education page for: [30-day notice and opt-out form](#)

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 329.007](#)
[ORS 329.045](#)
[ORS 329.451](#)
[ORS 329.479](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 332.114](#)
[ORS 336.585](#)
[ORS 336.590](#)

[ORS 339.115](#)
[ORS 339.505](#)
[ORS 343.295](#)

[OAR 581-021-0009](#)
[OAR 581-022-0102](#)
[OAR 581-022-2000](#)
[OAR 581-022-2005](#)

[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.

Certificates for School Completion: Questions and Answers Related to the Implementation of SB 992, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Cross Reference(s):

IKFA - Early and Delayed Graduation Requirements