

## Graduation Requirements (Version 1)

The Board will establish graduation requirements for the awarding of a regular high school diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma and alternative certificate which meet or exceed state standards requirements. The Board will also establish minimum credit requirements for the awarding of an alternative certificate. Students in grades 9 through 12 must complete a minimum of 24 credits, three credits of mathematics, and four credits of English.

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 upon the student's request and, if required, if the student's parent or guardian consents.

A modified diploma will be awarded to students who have met specific requirements established by the State Board of Education and have demonstrated an inability to meet the full set of academic standards even with reasonable modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for a modified diploma a student 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.

Alternative certificates will be awarded to a student who does not satisfy the requirements for a diploma or modified diploma if the student meets minimum credit requirements established by the district. Alternative certificates will be awarded based on individual student's needs and achievement. A student who receives a modified diploma or alternative certificate will have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

### 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;
2. Four credits of English;
3. Two credits of science;
4. Three credits of social sciences;
5. One credit in health education;
6. One credit in physical education; and
7. One credit in career and technical education, the arts or second language.

The district may award a diploma to a student who does not satisfy these requirements if the student has exceeded the academic content standards for or displays proficiency in mathematics or English, as demonstrated on Oregon state assessments<sup>1</sup>.

Students receiving their diploma in 2012 will need to complete three credits of science, three credits in either the arts, career/technical education or a second language (in any one or combination thereof) and six credits of electives. Students who receive their diploma in 2014 must complete their math credits at the Algebra I level and higher.

In addition to credit requirements, as outlined in OAR 581-022-1130, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the essential skills<sup>2</sup>;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
3. Demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence; and
4. Participate in career-related learning experiences.

### **Modified Diploma**

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

1. While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 24 credits which shall include:
  - a. Three credits in English;
  - b. Two credits in mathematics;
  - c. Two credits in science;
  - d. Two credits in social sciences;
  - e. One credit in health;
  - f. One credit in physical education; and
  - g. One credit in career technology, the arts or a second language.
2. Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
3. Have a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

### **Extended Diploma**

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

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<sup>1</sup>These graduation requirements apply to students who receive a high school diploma on or after July 1, 2009.

<sup>2</sup>This graduation requirement applies to students who receive a high school diploma on or after September 1, 2011. Each student shall demonstrate proficiency in essential skills adopted by the State Board of Education as provided in OAR 581-022-0615.

1. While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 12 credits, which may not include more than six credits in a self-contained special education classroom and will include:
  - a. Two credits of mathematics;
  - b. Two credits of English;
  - c. Two credits of science;
  - d. Three credits of history, geography, economics or civics;
  - e. One credit of health;
  - f. One credit of physical education; and
  - g. One credit of the arts or a second language.
2. Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
3. Have a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievements; and
4. Participate in an alternate assessment beginning no later than grade six and lasting for two or more assessment cycles; or
5. Have a serious illness or injury that occurs after grade eight, that changes the student's ability to participate in grade level activities and that results in the student participating in alternate assessments.

### **Alternative Certificates**

Alternative certificates will be awarded to a student who does not satisfy the requirements for a diploma, ~~or~~ modified diploma or extended diploma if the student meets minimum credit requirements established by the district. Alternative certificates will be awarded based on individual student's needs and achievement. A student who receives a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate will have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

The district will ensure that students have access to the appropriate resources to achieve a diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate at each high school. The district will provide literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

The district may not deny a student, who has the documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers, or of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievements, the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements than a modified diploma or an extended diploma for the sole reason the student has the documented history.

The district may award a modified diploma or extended diploma to a student only upon the consent of the student's parent or guardian.

Beginning in grade five, the district will annually provide information on the availability of a modified diploma, an extended diploma, and an alternative certificate and the requirement for the diplomas and certificate to the parents or guardians of a student taking an alternate assessment.

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 alternative certificate certificate of attendance or completion or of a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with modified diplomas is contingent on the IEP team determining services are needed.

Students and their parents will be notified of graduation and diploma requirements.

{The district will review graduation requirements biennially in conjunction with the secondary school improvement plan. Graduation requirements may be revised to address student benchmark performance.}

The district will issue a high school diploma, upon request, to a person who served in the Armed Forces<sup>3</sup>, as specified in Oregon law, if the person was discharged or released under honorable conditions and has received either a General Educational Development, a post-secondary degree or has received a minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 329.035](#)  
[ORS 329.095](#)  
[ORS 329.447](#)  
[ORS 329.451](#)  
[ORS 332.107](#)  
[ORS 332.114](#)  
[ORS 339.115](#)  
[ORS 343.295](#)

[OAR 581-021-0071](#)  
[OAR 581-022-0615](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1110](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1130](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1210](#)  
[OAR 581-022-1350](#)  
[HB 2061 \(2009\)](#)  
[HB 2507 \(2009\)](#)

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<sup>3</sup>The policy applies to any person who:

1. Served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. at any time during:
  - a. World War I;
  - b. World War II;
  - c. The Korean Conflict; or
  - d. The Vietnam War;
2. Served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. and was physically present in:
  - a. Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada);
  - b. Operation Just Cause (Panama);
  - c. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm (Persian Gulf War);
  - d. Operation Restore Hope (Somalia);
  - e. Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan); or
  - f. Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq);
3. Served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. in an area designated as a combat zone by the President of the U.S.