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Multnomah Education Service District

Graduation Requirements

The Board establishes 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 ESD 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 ESD requires diploma requirements beyond the state requirements, the MESD 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; or
6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program.; or
7. ³Enrolled in an approved recovery school under ORS 336.680.

For any student identified above, the MESD 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.

¹ "Foster child" is 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.

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.

Diploma

A high school diploma will be awarded to students in grades 9 through 12 who fulfill all state requirements adopted by the State Board of Education and all ESD requirements with 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 at a higher level 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 (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 and⁷ financial literacy);
5. ⁸One-half credit of higher education and career path skills;
6. ⁹One-half credit of personal financial education;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education; and
9. Three credits in career technical education, the arts or world languages¹⁰ (unit shall be earned in any one or a combination).

The MESD 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 outlined above, a student must:

1. ¹¹Demonstrate 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;

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; an ESD 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; an ESD 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 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).

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:

1. Three credits in language arts;
2. Two credits in mathematics;
3. Two credits in science;
4. Two credits in social sciences (which may include history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finance));
5. ¹²One-half credit in personal financial education;
6. ¹³One-half credit in higher education and career path skills;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education; and
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. ¹⁴Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing and apply mathematics in a variety of settings;

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

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

¹⁴ The State Board of Education has waived this requirement in Essential Skills for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

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)).

MESD 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 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 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 statewide 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 an anticipated exit from high school if the documented history has changed.

For students with a document history as described above, the ESD 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 ESD 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.

¹⁵**Essential Skills**

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

The MESD will develop procedures to provide local 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 MESD will follow Board policy KL - Public Complaints in the event of an appeal for the denial of a diploma based on the Essential Skills graduation requirement. The MESD 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 six 6 credits in a self-contained special education classroom, and will include:
 - a. Two credits of mathematics;
 - b. Two credits of language arts;
 - 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 world language.; and
2. Have a documented history of:
 - a. An inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers;

¹⁵ OAR 581-022-2115 (4): Consistent with section (22) of OAR 581-022-2115 Assessment of Essential Skills, the requirements established by sections (2) and (3) of this rule are waived through the end of the 2027-28 school year. Therefore, these two sections, i.e., Essential Skills and Essential Skills Appeal, are not required to be in policy at this time.

- 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 MESD 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 ESD 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 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
3. Have a documented history¹⁸.

For students with a documented history¹⁹, the MESD 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 ESD 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.

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 "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.

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.

Other MESD Responsibilities

The MESD will ensure that all students have onsite access to the appropriate resources and courses to achieve high school diplomas, modified diplomas, and extended diplomas or a certificate of attendance at each high school operated by the MESD. The MESD will provide age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

The MESD may not deny a 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 a documented history.

The MESD may award a modified diploma or an extended diploma to a student only upon the written consent 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 of the student's parent or guardian. The MESD 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 a certificate of attendance in 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.

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 four 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 MESD superintendent who will annually report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the number of such consents.

A student who qualifies to receive or received 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 MESD will provide a total number of hours of instruction and services to the student that equal at least the total number of instructional hours that is required to be provided to students who are attending a public high school. The MESD 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 MESD 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 MESD 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 MESD 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 may opt-out of the Oregon statewide assessments in language arts and/or mathematics by completing the Oregon Department of Education's Opt-out Form²⁰ and submit the form to the MESD.

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

Legal Reference(s): [ORS 329.007](#)

[ORS 329.045](#)
[ORS 329.451](#)
[ORS 329.479](#)
[ORS 334.125\(7\)](#)
[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 581-022-2010](#)
[OAR 581-022-2015](#)
[OAR 581-002-2020](#)
[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.

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