

Graduation Requirements

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. Four credits of English language arts (shall include the equivalent of one unit in written composition);
2. 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);
3. Three credits of science;
4. Three credits of social sciences (including history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finance));
5. One credit in health education;
6. One credit in physical education;
7. Three credits in career technical education, the arts or world languages (units shall be earned in any one or a combination);
8. One-half credit of higher education and career path skills;¹ and
9. One-half credit of personal financial education.²

The district shall offer students credit options provided the method for obtaining such credit 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, a student must:

1. 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 through a collection of evidence; and
4. Participate in career-related learning experiences outlined in the education plan.

Essential Skills Appeal

The district 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 district will retain student work samples and student performance data to ensure that sufficient evidence is available in the event of an appeal.

¹ 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 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 the law).

² 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 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 the law). 10 "World language" includes sign language, heritage language and languages other than a student's primary language.

Modified Diploma

A modified diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a high school diploma even with reasonable modifications and accommodations. A modified diploma may only be awarded to a student who meets the eligibility criteria listed below:

1. Has a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
2. 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 which shall include:

1. Three credits in English 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 finances));
5. One credit in health education;
6. One credit in physical education;
7. One credit in career technical education, the arts or a world language (units may be earned in any one or a combination);
8. One-half credit in higher education and career path skills;³ and
9. One-half credit in personal financial education.⁴

In addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2010, a student must:

1. Develop an education plan and build an education profile; and
2. Demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence.

A student must also demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations.⁵

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 learning expectations, 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.

³ This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

⁴ This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

⁵ The State Board of Education has waived this requirement in Essential Skills for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

2. For a student not on an IEP or 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must have been provided to the student during his/her 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 Smarter Balanced assessment.

A student's school team shall decide that a student should 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 towards a modified diploma should work towards 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.

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 diploma while receiving 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 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;
 - g. One credit of the arts or a world language.
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.

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.

Certificate of Attendance

A certificate of attendance⁶ will be awarded to students who:⁷

1. Have maintained regular full-time attendance for at least four years beginning in grade nine;⁸
2. Do not satisfy requirements for a high school diploma, modified diploma or extended diploma; and
3. Have a documented history.⁹

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.

Assessment

Students may opt-out of the Smarter Balanced or alternate Oregon Extended Assessment by completing the Oregon Department of Education's Opt-out Form¹⁰ and submitting the form to the district.

⁶ The Board shall define criteria for a certificate of attendance. OAR 581-022-2200 (3). See the Oregon Department of Education's Certificates for School Completion: Questions and Answers Related to the Implementation of SB 992

⁷ 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

⁸ "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 will not be counted against a student.

⁹ "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.

¹⁰ www.ode.state.or.us: Educator Resources > Student Assessment > Test administration > Forms > 2018-2019 30-day notice and opt-out form