

## Graduation Requirements

The Board will establish graduation requirements for the awarding of a high school diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma and alternative certificate 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 received by the student's parent or guardian or by the student if they are 18 years of age or older or emancipated.

### 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:

- A. 18 Units of credit:
  - 1. Three credits of mathematics (Algebra 1 and higher);
  - 2. Four credits of English (one unit in written comprehension);
  - 3. Three credits of science;
  - 4. Three credits of social sciences;
  - 5. One credit in health education;
  - 6. One credit in physical education; and
  - 7. Three credits in career and technical education, the arts or world language.
- B. Six or more units of credit shall be earned in the elective program. Each Lincoln County School District high school will offer electives in each of the five basic areas:
  - (1) Language, Writing or World Language
  - (2) Science or Mathematics
  - (3) Social Studies
  - (4) Fine Arts, Humanities
  - (5) Personal or Social Development, plus others.
- C. At least one credit of coursework described in A. and B. above must be earned through technology based instruction such as an online class distance education. V-tel, blackboard, Moodle, etc.

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 OAR 581-022-1131.

To receive a diploma or modified diploma, in addition to credit requirements, as outlined in OAR 581-022-1130 and OAR 581-022-1134, respectively, a student must:

8. Demonstrate proficiency in the essential skills<sup>1</sup> of reading, writing and applied math;
9. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
10. Demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence;
11. Participate in career-related learning experiences.

### **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.

### **Honors Diploma**

In order to be granted honors diplomas students must complete their high school program with a minimum grade point average of 3.5.

#### **1. Units of Credit**

Each student is required to earn a minimum of 27 units of credit that must include all of the following areas:

- a. Four units of science;
- b. Three units of mathematics beyond Algebra I;
- c. Two units of world language;
- d. Three units of Professional/Technical Education, fine arts/applied arts; if a world language is used to meet this requirement it must be above and beyond the two units required in c above;
- e. Four units of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Superintendent approved honors course in any subject area, or dual or other college credit.

#### **2. School/Community Services**

Students must demonstrate active involvement in both a school activity and community service in each year of high school attendance.

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<sup>1</sup> The district will not allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills in the student's language of origin.

## **Modified Diploma**

A modified diploma will be awarded only 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. A modified diploma may only be awarded to a student who meets the eligibility criteria 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:

3. Three credits in English;
4. Two credits in mathematics;
5. Two credits in science;
6. Two credits in social sciences;
7. One credit in health;
8. One credit in physical education; and
9. One credit in career technology, the arts or a world language.

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

10. For a student on an IEP, any modifications to work samples must be consistent with the requirements established in the IEP. Modifications are changes to the achievement level, construct, or measured outcome of an assessment. This means that IEP or 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.
11. For a student not on an IEP, 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.
12. Students not on an IEP or a 504 Plan may not receive a modified OAKS assessment.

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.

### **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 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; and
  - 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 after a documented history to qualify for an extended diploma has been established, the district shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of a modified diploma, an extended diploma and an alternative certificate.

### **Alternative Certificates**

Alternative certificates will be awarded to students who do not satisfy the requirements for a diploma, modified diploma or extended diploma if the students meet minimum credit requirements established by the district. Alternative certificates will be awarded based on individual student 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.

### **Other District Responsibilities**

The district will ensure that students have onsite access to the appropriate resources to achieve a diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate at each high school. The district will provide age appropriate and developmentally appropriate 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 written consent of the student's parent or guardian. The district shall receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma or extended diploma is awarded. A student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18 at the time the modified diploma or extended diploma is awarded may sign the consent.

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

A student may satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate in less than four years but not less than three years. In order to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate in less than 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.

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.

A student who receives a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate shall have access to individually designed instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services 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, unless reduced by the IEP team.

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 or completion of a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities for a modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate 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 annually by building principals, kindergarten through twelfth grades, of high school graduation ceremony and diploma requirements.

Schools in the district may not unilaterally make requirements in addition to or different from those set by the Board.

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

The district will issue a high school diploma, upon request, to a person who served in the Armed Forces<sup>2</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.

### Participation in commencement ceremony

Participation in the commencement ceremony is considered a privilege. The student must meet any diploma or certificate requirements in order to participate in the ceremony. The building principal may deny student participation in the ceremony for any inappropriate student behavior or disciplinary reason as defined in the student handbook.

The Superintendent may develop administrative rules to implement this policy.

END OF POLICY

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#### Legal Reference(s):

ORS 329.095  
ORS 329.451  
ORS 332.107  
ORS 332.114  
ORS 338.115  
ORS 339.115

ORS 339.505  
ORS 343.295  
OAR 581-022-0615  
OAR 581-022-0617  
OAR 581-022-1130  
OAR 581-022-1131

OAR 581-022-1133  
OAR 581-022-1134  
OAR 581-002-1135  
OAR 581-022-1210  
OAR 581-022-1215  
OAR 581-022-1350

TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL, APPENDIX L-REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSESSMENT OF ESSENTIAL SKILLS.

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<sup>2</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.