

# Graduation Requirements

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# OVERVIEW

- **Diploma Options**
  - **Regular**
  - **Modified**
  - **Extended**
- **Alternate Certificate**
- **Essential Skills for Graduation**
- **Accommodations vs Modifications**
- **How to prepare for graduation NOW**

# Oregon Diploma Options

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>REGULAR</b> Accommodations Only	<b>MODIFIED</b> Coursework May Be Modified	<b>EXTENDED</b> Coursework May Be Modified
L.A	4 credits	3 credits	2 credits
Math	3 (Algebra and above)	2 (Any level)	2
Science	3	2	2
Social Studies	3	2	3
Health	1	1	1
PE	1	1	1
Career/Fine Arts	3	1	1
Electives	6	12	
Essential Skills	R, W, M (with or without accommodations)	R, W, M (with or without accommodations and/or modifications)	Not Required

# Alternative Certificate

- **Schools shall award an alternative certificate to a student who does not satisfy the requirements for a high school diploma, a modified diploma, or an extended diploma**
- **Each district school board shall define criteria for an alternative certificate**

# Regular Diploma

- **Districts may increase the number of credits in specific areas, and may increase or decrease the number of elective credits, but may not require less than 24 credits total**
- **Also requires an education plan and profile**
- **Accommodations may be provided**

# Modified Diploma

- “Modified course” means a course that has been systematically changed or altered for a student only after reasonable alternative instruction strategies (e.g. accommodations, remediation) are exhausted
- Available when students are unable to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high school diploma even with reasonable accommodations
- Eligibility:
  - 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

# Modified Diploma (con't)

- **Students currently engaged in the use of illegal drugs (or alcohol) are not eligible for a modified diploma if the significant learning and instructional barriers are due to the use of illegal drugs**
- **Modified diplomas are an option for ALL students**
- **REQUIRES parental/adult student consent—in writing and during the year in which the diploma is awarded**
- **Decision should be made no earlier than 6<sup>th</sup> grade and no later than two years prior to anticipated graduation date, but the decision may be revised if the documented history of the student has changed**
- **If students are taking the alternate assessment, school districts shall annually provide information to the parents/guardians of the availability of the modified diploma and its requirements**

# Extended Diploma

- **Awarded to students who have not been able to meet the full set of standards even with reasonable modifications and accommodations**
- **Requires written consent**
- **Of the 12 credits, no more than six may be earned in a self-contained special education classroom**
- **School districts must ensure that students have on-site access to the appropriate resources to achieve an extended diploma at each high school in the district**



# Impact of Diploma Decisions

- Regular, Modified, and Extended Diploma are all considered Oregon Diplomas
- Regular and Modified diplomas count in district graduation rates (beginning with class of 2014)
- FAFSA is available for regular and modified diplomas
- All completers may participate in the graduation ceremony
- Community Colleges accept regular, modified, extended, and certificates
- Military will depend on the branch and ASVAB

**The ONLY things that ends FAPE are (1) a regular diploma, or (2) the end of the school year in which a student turns 21**

# Essential Skills for Graduation

- **Students must demonstrate proficiency in Reading, Writing, and Math to graduate with a regular or modified diploma**
- **Proficiency requirements for students graduating on a modified diploma may be individualized by the IEP/School team**

# Essential Skills for Graduation

- **Options for Demonstrating Essential Skills**
  - **Statewide Assessment (Smarter Balanced/OAKS)**
  - **ACT/SAT/PSAT/PLAN**
  - **Work Keys (National Career Readiness Certification)**
  - **Compass**
  - **ASSET**
  - **AP Exams**
  - **IB Exams**
  - **College Accuplacer Assessment**
  - **Work Samples**

# Essential Skills for Graduation

- **Modifications On Assessments/Work Samples**
  - **Students on IEPs or 504s:**
    - Cut scores for Statewide Assessments may be modified
    - Work Samples may be modified (scoring or sample) as determined by the IEP team and based on data and present levels of performance
  - **Students NOT on IEPs or 504s:**
    - Statewide Assessment cut scores **MAY NOT** be modified
    - Work Samples may be modified as determined by a school team

# Accommodations vs Modifications

- **“Accommodation” is a device, practice, intervention, or procedure provided to a student with a disability that affords equal access to instruction and assessment**
- **“Modification” is ALSO a device practice, intervention or procedure...that affords equal access to instruction or assessment**

# Accommodations vs Modifications

- **Accommodations do not change the learning expectations, construct, grade-level standard, and/or measured outcome**
- **Modifications change one or more of these things**

# Accommodations vs Modifications

- The purpose of an accommodation is reduce or eliminate the impact of the student's disability, so that he or she can achieve a standard
- The purpose of a modification is to reduce the impact of a student's disability, allowing the student access to content, instruction, and/or peers

# Accommodations vs Modifications

- Consistent use of modifications may increase the gap between achievement of students with disabilities and grade level expectations



# Accommodations vs Modifications

- **Accommodations:**
  - No negative impact for students
- **Modifications:**
  - May have negative impact for students if used inappropriately, unknowingly, or unnecessarily
  - However, Modifications ARE APPROPRIATE for many students

# Accommodations vs Modifications

- How do you know if it's an accommodation or a modification?
  - Ask the question:  
**WHAT IS THE LEARNING TARGET??**

# Accommodations vs Modifications

- **An accommodation in one setting may be a modification in another**
  - **Examples:**
    - Books on tape
    - Shortened writing assignments
    - Shorter, high interest, low vocabulary books on the same subject as is read by the rest of the class

**WHAT IS THE LEARNING TARGET?**

# Accommodations vs Modifications

- Does modified curriculum mean modified credit?
  - It depends...we teach standards, not curriculum
    - Curriculum is the tool

You can change the curriculum/task/assignment, and not change the learning target

# Where to start...

- **Connect with your high school**
  - Find out if your local high school has alternate graduation requirements
  - Consider requesting HS Staff to attend IEP meetings at earlier ages
- **Start asking if changes/supports being provided are accommodations or modifications**
- **Begin transition planning early—diploma decisions should be based on transition plan, not the other way around**

# Questions???

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