



## GENERAL

### 1. What is a modified diploma?

A modified diploma is a document that is awarded to a student who has earned some units of credit through either modified regular education courses with or without accommodations and/or through modified courses.

### 2. Why would a student earn a modified diploma instead of a regular education diploma?

A modified diploma is awarded if a student has demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards, even with reasonable accommodations, but who fulfills all requirements for the modified diploma as described in state, district and school policies.

### 3. When will the OAR for a modified diploma apply?

ORS 329.451 states: **School districts and public charter schools shall make modified diplomas and alternative certificates first available to students during the 2008-2009 school year.**

Students entering the 9th grade **after** July 1, 2009, who are working toward a modified diploma are required to meet the criteria in the new State Regulations 581-022-1134.

Student currently in high school (9<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond) and students who will enter the 9th grade **before** July 1, 2009, who are working toward a modified diploma must follow current district policies for modified diplomas **OR** the criteria in the new State Regulations 581-022-1134. The school team, including the parent, must make this decision.

## ELIGIBILITY

### 4. Is the modified diploma only available for special education students?

No. The modified diploma may be awarded to any student who has met the eligibility criteria and completed the state requirements for a modified diploma. Examples of students who may qualify for a modified diploma include: students with special needs, English as a second language students, or students who are on a Section 504 Plan.

### 5. Who is eligible to earn a modified diploma?

The modified diploma is designed for any student who has:

- a documented history of the inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student; or,
- a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

Students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards, even with reasonable modifications and accommodations, and who fulfill all state requirements for the modified diploma as stipulated in OAR 581-022-1134 may receive a modified diploma.

### 6. What is "documented history?" (Eligibility Criteria)

This is evidence in the cumulative (collective) record and education plans of a student that demonstrates the inability over time to maintain grade level achievement even with appropriate modifications and accommodations and/or intensive instruction.

## The Modified Diploma: The Details



### 7. What is an “instructional barrier?” (Eligibility Criteria)

This is a significant physical, cognitive or emotional barrier that impairs a student’s ability to maintain grade level achievement.

### 8. What is an example of an “instructional barrier?”

**Instructional Barrier:** A student who suffers from intermittent panic attacks that prevent him/her from attending and participating in school on a regular basis and responding to instruction without significant modifications.

**Instructional Barrier:** A student who functions on a concrete level only and is unable to comprehend the abstract even with significant intense instruction. This student would not be able to maintain grade level achievement, particularly in math and science, unless content were presented concretely.

**Significant Learning Barrier:** A specific learning disability in math that would not allow the student to succeed beyond a certain grade level even with a variety of accommodations and modifications and intense instructional opportunities.

### 9. If a school district does not use cumulative record files, where can the documented history be located?

School districts who do not use a cumulative record file, must indicate in their policies where the documented history shall be located.

### 10. Who is NOT eligible to earn a modified diploma?

Students who are currently engaged in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol are excluded from consideration if the significant learning and instructional barriers are due to the use of illegal drugs or alcohol. Exceptions: 1) The student has completed a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and is no longer using illegal drugs or alcohol, 2) the student is rehabilitated or 3) the student is participating in a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and is no longer engaging in the use of drugs or alcohol.

### 11. Can a student who graduates with a modified diploma continue public education to age 21?

If a student is on an IEP and graduates with a modified diploma, the student remains entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) through the age of 21.

If a student is not on an IEP and graduates with a modified diploma ORS **339.115** applies. (1) Except as provided in ORS 339.141, authorizing tuition for courses not part of the regular school program, the district school board shall admit free of charge to the schools of the district all persons between the ages of 5 and 19 who reside within the school district. A person whose 19th birthday occurs during the school year shall continue to be eligible for a free and appropriate public education for the remainder of the school year.

## DECISION-MAKING

### 12. Who determines if a student is eligible for a regular diploma, modified diploma or alternative certificate?

The student’s school team decides if a student will work toward obtaining a regular diploma, modified diploma, or alternative certificate. The team makeup is determined by

## The Modified Diploma: The Details



a school district or public charter school, should include the student and **must include a parent or guardian**. In the case of students receiving special education and related services at a public charter school, the resident school district shall determine the team for that student. The team for a student served by an IEP may be made up of IEP team members.

### 13. When is the diploma decision made?

Students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) are notified about diploma options when the student is in the fifth grade, but the decision cannot be made earlier than the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and no later than 2 years before the student's anticipated exit from high school. Districts may use a comprehensive list of diploma/certificate options included in the parent handbook or other resource to comply with this requirement.

### 14. Is the decision reviewed regularly?

Yes. Diploma information is reviewed annually after students working toward a modified diploma complete the eighth grade.

### 15. Can the decision be changed?

Yes, the decision can be reviewed by the school team and changed if appropriate.

1) If a student who is **not** working toward a modified diploma has a change in documented history that would prompt a school team to consider if it is more appropriate for the student to work toward a modified diploma; or,

2) If a student who is working toward a modified diploma demonstrates the ability to complete the requirements for a regular diploma, the school team supports the student in meeting all regular diploma requirements.

### 16. What happens to credit earned for courses that were modified if the student pursues a regular diploma instead?

The credit for modified courses can be used toward a modified diploma. Credit for courses that were modified must be retaken without modifications in order to be counted for a regular diploma.

## MODIFICATION DECISIONS

### 17. Must all the courses be modified for a modified diploma?

No. Students may earn units of credit through regular education courses with or without accommodations or modifications and through modified courses. When one or more courses that contain substantial academic content are modified, those courses may count toward a modified diploma but not count toward a regular diploma.

### 18. What is a modified curriculum?

The school district must determine the modified curriculum based on the modifications needed to assist the student in meeting their highest level of achievement. For one student, it may mean algebra with modifications that would allow the student to meet part of the algebra standards. For another student, it may mean completing all the requirements for a consumer math course or completing a basic math course on the 6<sup>th</sup>

## The Modified Diploma: The Details

grade level. The purpose is to push the student to work towards their potential, while providing them with any accommodations and/or modifications they require.

### CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

**19. Do all modified courses have to be taught by highly qualified teachers?**

According to Elementary and Secondary Education Association (ESEA) regulations, a teacher who does not teach a core academic subject—such as some vocational education teachers—is not required to meet the requirements specified for teachers of English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, and geography. The same is true under IDEA; however, additional specifics regarding sustained intensive training and intensive supervision requirements apply for students served under IDEA.

**20. How do the credit requirements vary for a modified diploma as compared to a regular diploma? See the chart below. (Adjustments may be made to the distribution of credit, but the total cannot exceed 24 units of credit.)**

Academic Subject	Credits Required for Graduation with a Modified Diploma	Credits Required for Graduation with a Regular Diploma (Beginning with the graduates of 2010)	
English/Language Arts	3 <sup>1</sup>	4	
Mathematics	2	3	(In the class of 2014 all credits must be Algebra I and above)
Science	2	2	(Increases to 3 with 2 of the credits lab experiences for graduates of 2012)
Social Sciences <sup>2</sup>	2	3	
Physical Education	1	1	
Health	1	1	
Second Languages/ The Arts/Career and Technical Education (CTE) <sup>3</sup>	1	1	(Increases to 3 for graduates in 2012)
Electives <sup>4</sup>	12	9	(Decreases to 6 for graduates in 2012)
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Students shall have access to literacy instruction until the completion of school.

<sup>2</sup> Social Sciences may include history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finance).

<sup>3</sup> Second Languages/The Arts/Career and Technical Education (CTE) units may be earned in any one or a combination of courses.

<sup>4</sup> School districts and public charter schools shall be flexible in awarding the remaining 12 units of credit. The credits must meet the needs of the individual student as specified in the education plan of the student with the expectations and standards aligned to the appropriate grade level academic content standards. These credits may include: (A) Additional core credits; (B) Career and Technical Education; (C) Electives; and (D) Career development.

21. Is there a specific level of proficiency in math the student needs to acquire or just the required number of credits?

For a modified diploma, the student would not have to reach a specific level of proficiency. Credit could be earned in such courses as consumer math, business math or basic math. Credit could also be earned in courses at a higher level of proficiency, but with significant modifications.

22. What is "Career Development" (included in the list of 12 remaining credits to be earned for a modified diploma)?

Career Development as used in the modified diploma rule aligns with OAR 581-022-1510 *Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling*. Career Development could be any coursework, including working in a career center or other career exploration work that would assist the student in preparing for the career of his/her choice. For a student with disabilities, career development would include transition services and the course of study the student would pursue in order to achieve his or her post secondary goal.

23. What is "Additional Core" (included in the list of 12 remaining credits to be earned for a modified diploma)?

Additional core are classes in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Sciences.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

24. What are the next steps that school districts must do to meet the requirements of this OAR?

School districts must adopt policies and procedures to comply with this OAR. The ODE will work with the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) to develop an approved sample policy. The ODE together with Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) has prepared an Administrators' Toolkit and an Educators' Toolkit for districts and schools to use in planning and implementing the Oregon Diploma.

25. Do students earning a modified diploma have to meet the other requirements in the Oregon diploma?

Yes. Each student is expected to:

- 1) Develop an **education plan** and build an **education profile**;
- 2) Be aware of the option to earn **credit for proficiency**;
- 3) Build a collection of evidence (or include evidence in an existing collection) to demonstrate **extended application** of the standards.

26. What else are school districts required to provide for modified diploma students?

- Access to literacy instruction until school exit
- Access to needed courses
- Modifications and supports to coincide with his/her individual plan
- Substantial academic content
- Content across academic areas such as:
  - Applied                      Academic
  - Consumer                      Knowledge/skill development

27. **What is the relationship or difference between the “Education Plan” and an Individual Education Plan (IEP)?**  
The language in the adopted OAR 581-022-1134 *Modified Diploma* mirrors the language in OAR 581-022-1130 *Diploma Requirements* for a regular diploma. Section (9) of the OAR for a modified diploma reads: “Each student shall develop an education plan and build an education profile as provided under OAR 581-022-1130.” For special education students, the IEP could serve as the education plan if it meets the criteria in OAR 581-022-1130. The Office of Student Learning and Partnerships will be working with the Office of Educational Improvement and Innovation to develop a technical assistance paper aligning the requirements in the OAR to the transition components in the IEP.
28. **Can a student earning a modified diploma participate in the high school graduation ceremony?**  
Yes. Each student receiving a modified diploma shall be offered the option of participating in the high school graduation ceremony with the members of their class receiving a regular high school diploma.

### IMPLICATIONS

29. **How will students or parents know that high school coursework has been modified?**  
Both the student and parent must be notified if courses in high school have been modified and a school district or public charter school must provide a transcript which clearly identifies modified courses that count toward a modified diploma.
30. **Will the modified diploma be accepted by four-year universities or Community colleges?**  
Most four-year universities do not accept a modified diploma; however, an appeal may be considered by some universities. Community college courses are available to students who have a modified diploma. At the community college level, all new, non-transfer freshman are required to take a placement exam that indicates course levels required in reading, language arts (comprehension and writing) and mathematics. Community colleges offer remedial courses that do not count toward college credit.
31. **Will students who receive a modified diploma be eligible for federal or state financial aid at a post-secondary institution?**  
Students who receive a modified diploma are not eligible for federal financial aid. Some state and private financial aid and scholarships are available. Each student should work with the high school counselor, financial aid advisor, or the college registrar for clarification of what options are available.
32. **Will the modified diploma be accepted by the military?**  
Some branches of the military may accept a modified diploma. Acceptance depends on the current needs of the military and criteria may change quickly. Students and their parents should check with recruiters to determine if a modified diploma is currently being accepted. All branches of the service have minimum scores required for entry on a placement test called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).



33. Where can I find more information about the modified diploma? There is more information about the modified diploma, including the final approved OAR adopted by the State Board of Education at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/stateboard/581-022-1134-modified-4-7-08.doc> or contact Jackie Burr at (503)947-5639 or email [Jackie.burr@state.or.us](mailto:Jackie.burr@state.or.us)

This document will be updated frequently as new questions arise and clarifications are made to existing issues. Check the ODE website at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=368> or <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=2047> for updates.





# Modified Diploma & Alternative Certificate

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In January of 2007, the State Board of Education voted to adopt new high school graduation requirements, which are designed to better prepare each student for success in college, work, and citizenship.

- GOAL: *Each student demonstrates the knowledge and skills necessary to transition successfully to his or her next steps: advanced learning, work and citizenship.*

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### What about students who don't speak English? Or children with special needs?

**EVERY STUDENT WHO CAN POSSIBLY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO GRADUATE WITH AN OREGON DIPLOMA**

Some students will:

- need additional support, time, or tutoring to achieve at high levels.
- work toward a modified diploma
- work toward an alternative certificate.

It's our responsibility to make sure that all students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills necessary for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs.

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## OAD 581-022-1134 Modified Diploma

**Feb 2007** SACSE requested a Task Force study the impact of the Oregon Diploma on students with disabilities

**July 2007** Oregon Legislature passed HB2484

**Feb 2008** ODE drafted criteria for Modified Diploma OARs

**May 2008** State Board of Education adopted OAR 581-022-1134

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## Requirement



- All School Districts and Public Charter Schools shall award a modified diploma to students who have :
  - demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards (#5)
  - Fulfilled all state requirements as described in this rule

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## Eligibility

- A documented history (#6) of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers (#7, #8) inherent in the student;
- Or--
- A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

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## Definitions

- Documented History (#6)
  - In cumulative record
  - Inability over time to maintain grade level achievement
  - Even with modifications and accommodations
- Instructional barrier- (#7)
  - Physical, cognitive, emotional
  - Cannot maintain grade level achievement
- Modified course (#18)
  - Systematically changed or altered
  - After reasonable alternative instructional strategies are exhausted



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## School Teams

- School District selects which school team (#12) shall decide if a student will work toward obtaining a regular diploma, modified diploma or alternate certificate
- Must include parent



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## Timelines

- **Notification:** (#13) students/parents of availability of the modified diploma in the fifth grade
- **Decision:** no earlier than the end of the 6th grade---no later than 2 years before student's anticipated exit
- **Reviewed Annually:** (#14) After 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- **Reverse decision:** (#15) Made by school team



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### What Can You Do With a Modified Diploma?

- Employment
- Community College (#30)
- Military Service (#32)
- 4 year College (#30)
- Federal Financial Aid (#31)

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### Units of Credits-- 24 credits

#### 12 required credits

- English/Lang Arts—3
- Mathematics—2 (#21)
- Science—2
- Social Sciences—2
- Health Education —1
- Physical Education—1
- CTE, Arts or 2<sup>nd</sup> Lang—1

#### 12 additional credits

- Additional core credits (#23)
- Career and Technical Education
- Electives
- Career development (#22)

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### Earning Credit

- Regular education with or without accommodations or modifications
- Modified courses.
- Credit by proficiency



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### School Districts must provide (#26) :

- Access to literacy instruction
- Access to needed courses
- Modifications and supports
- Substantial academic
- Across academic content areas
  - Applied
  - Academic
  - Consumer
  - Knowledge/skill development



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### Additional Requirements (#25)



- Education Plan
- Education Profile
- Extended Application
- Inform parent/student of modified courses
- Transcripts identify modified courses.



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### Graduation Ceremony (#28)

- Each student receiving a modified diploma shall have the option of **participating in the high school graduation ceremony** with the members of their class receiving a regular high school diploma



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### Effective Dates (#3)

SD shall make modified diplomas and alternative certificates first available to students during the 2008-2009 school year.

Enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade **AFTER** July 1, 2009

- State Regulations apply

Enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade **BEFORE** July 1, 2009

- School Team decides if district regulations or state regulations apply

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### Alternative Certificate



- All School districts and public charter schools shall make an alternative certificate available to students who do not obtain the regular high school diploma or modified diploma.

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### Alternative Certificate

- School districts or public charter schools shall define criteria for an alternative certificate




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## Graduation Ceremony

- Each student receiving a **Alternative Certificate** shall have the option of **participating in the high school graduation ceremony** with the members of their class receiving a regular high school diploma



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# Modified Diploma

## OAR 581-022-1134

(1) Definitions. As used in this rule:

(a) “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.

(b) “Instructional barrier” means a significant physical, cognitive or emotional barrier that impairs a student’s ability to maintain grade level achievement.

(c) “Modified course” means a course that has been systematically changed or altered for a student only after reasonable alternative instructional strategies (e.g. accommodations, remediation) are exhausted.

(2) Each district school board or public charter school governing board with jurisdiction over high school programs shall award a modified diploma to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards even with reasonable accommodations but who fulfill all state requirements as described in this rule and all applicable local school district requirements as described in district school board policies or public charter school requirements as described in school policies.

(3) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) or (c) of this section, a school district or public charter school shall grant eligibility for a modified diploma to a student who has:

(A) A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student; or

(B) A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

(b) Students currently engaged in the use of illegal drugs are not eligible for a modified diploma if the significant learning and instructional barriers are due to the use of illegal drugs.

(c) Students currently engaged in the illegal use of alcohol are not eligible for a modified diploma if the significant learning and instructional barriers are due to the alcohol abuse, regardless of whether that student is disabled under Section 504 on the basis of alcoholism.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) and (c) of this section, a school district or public charter school may grant eligibility for a modified diploma to a student who is no longer engaging in illegal use of drugs or alcohol if the student:

(A) Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and are no longer engaged in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol; or

(B) Has been rehabilitated successfully and is no longer engaged in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol; or

(C) Is participating in a supervised rehabilitation program and is no longer engaging in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol.

(4)(a) A school district or public charter school shall determine which school teams shall decide if a student will work toward obtaining a regular diploma, modified diploma or alternative certificate. A student’s school team must include a parent or guardian of the student. In the case of a student receiving special education and related services the resident school district of a public charter school student shall determine the school team for that student.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a student's school team shall decide that a student should work toward a modified diploma no earlier than the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and no later than 2 years before the student's anticipated exit from high school.

(c) School district and public charter schools shall notify students and their parents or guardians of the availability of the modified diploma in the fifth grade and shall ensure that parents or guardians are involved in the decision to pursue a modified diploma for a student. After students working toward a modified diploma complete the 8<sup>th</sup> grade modified diploma information shall be reviewed annually with the parent or guardian of a student.

(d) A student's school team may formally decide to revise a modified diploma decision.

(e) A student's school team may decide that a student who was not previously working towards a modified diploma should work toward a modified diploma when a student is less than 2 years from anticipated exit from high school if the documented history of the student described in section (3) of this rule has changed.

(5) Unit of credit requirements for students graduating with a modified diploma:

(a) To receive a modified diploma a student must earn 24 units of credit, between grade 9 and the end of their high school career with at least 12 of those credits to include:

(A) English Language Arts—3;

(B) Mathematics—2;

(C) Science—2;

(D) Social Sciences (which may include history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finance)) —2;

(E) Health Education —1;

(F) Physical Education—1; and

(G) Career Technical Education, The Arts or Second Languages (units may be earned in any one or a combination)—1.

(b) School districts and public charter schools shall be flexible in awarding the remaining 12 units of credit. These credits must be awarded to meet the needs of the individual student as specified in the education plan of the student with the expectations and standards aligned to the appropriate grade level academic content standards. These credits may include:

(A) Additional core credits described in paragraph (a) of this section;

(B) Professional technical education;

(C) Electives; and

(D) Career development.

(c) Students may earn units of credit through regular education with or without accommodations or modifications and through modified courses.

(d) Students shall have the option to earn credit for demonstrating proficiency. A student may be given credit for successful demonstration of knowledge and skills that meets or exceeds defined levels of performance. Students may demonstrate proficiency through classroom work or documentation of learning experiences outside of school, or through a combination of these means.

(e) Students shall have access to literacy instruction until the completion of school.

(f) School districts and public charter schools shall ensure that students have access to needed courses, modifications and supports to pursue a modified diploma and to progress in the general education curriculum.

(g) A school district or public charter school may not require a student to earn more than 24 units of credit to receive a modified diploma.

(6) A school district or public charter school shall grant credit toward a modified diploma only for courses that contain substantial academic content. A school district or public charter school shall grant credit for a modified diploma through a continuum of instruction beginning at basic skills and progressing through high level skills.

(7) A school district or public charter school shall award a regular diploma under OAR 581-022-1130 if all requirements for a regular diploma are met. Completion of one or more modified courses shall not prohibit a student from earning a regular diploma.

(8) A school district or public charter school shall grant credit toward a modified diploma according to individual student needs across academic content areas including applied, consumer, academic, or knowledge and skill development.

(9) Each student shall develop an education plan and build an education profile as provided under OAR 581-022-1130.

(10) A school district or public charter school shall inform the student and parent or guardian of the student if the courses in grades 9-12 have been modified for an individual student.

(11) A school district or public charter school shall provide transcripts which clearly identify modified courses that do not count toward the regular diploma but that do count toward a modified diploma.

(12) Each student shall build a collection of evidence, or include evidence in existing collections, to demonstrate extended application of the standards as defined in OAR 581-022-0102;

(13) Each student receiving a modified diploma shall have the option of participating in the high school graduation ceremony with the members of their class receiving a regular high school diploma.

(14)(a) The requirements of this rule for a modified diploma apply to all students who enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade on or after July 1, 2009.

(b) If a student enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade prior to July 1, 2009, the student's team shall decide whether the student must meet the requirements of this rule to receive a modified diploma. A school district or public charter school may award a student who enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade prior to July 1, 2009 a modified diploma if the student meets the requirements for a modified diploma specified by the district or school and the student's team.

Stat. Authority: ORS 329.451

Stats. Implemented: ORS 329.451



## The Modified Diploma: What Every Educator Needs to Know



In May of 2008, the State Board of Education adopted an Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) that defined the requirements for awarding a modified diploma. **Any student** who meets the eligibility criteria outlined in [OAR 581-022-1134](#) may receive a modified diploma. A school shall grant **eligibility for a modified diploma** to a student who has: 1) a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student or 2) a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

A student and the parent or guardian shall be informed about diploma options when the student is in the fifth grade, but the decision to work toward a modified diploma cannot be made earlier than the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and no later than 2 years before the student's anticipated exit from high school. **The decision is made by the school team, which should include the student and MUST include a parent or guardian.** When a student working toward a modified diploma completes the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the school team must review the modified diploma information annually.

**The student's school team can formally decide to revise a modified diploma decision.** If a student who is not working toward a modified diploma has a change in documented history, a team can reconsider what diploma or certificate the student will work toward. If a student working toward a modified diploma demonstrates the ability to work toward a regular diploma and meets all requirements, the team can consider a change. However, previously modified courses must be retaken without modifications to meet the standards of a regular diploma.

A school district or public charter school must **inform the student and parent or guardian if the courses in grades 9-12 have been modified.** The school must provide transcripts which clearly identify which courses were modified and do not count toward the regular diploma, but do count toward a modified diploma. Completion of one or more modified courses shall not prohibit a student from earning a regular diploma.

A student pursuing a modified diploma will be expected to complete a maximum of 24 credits, the same amount required for a regular diploma. Also, each student is expected to: 1) develop an **education plan and profile**, 2) be aware the option to earn **credit for proficiency**, 3) build a collection of evidence (or include evidence in the existing collection) to demonstrate **extended application of the standards.**

**Alternative certificate criteria** are defined by each district school board or public charter school governing board with jurisdiction over high school programs. This certificate will be made available to students who do not obtain a regular high school or modified diploma.

All students who receive a modified diploma or an alternative certificate shall have the option of participating in the **high school graduation ceremony** with the members of their class receiving a regular high school diploma.

School districts and public charter schools shall make modified diplomas and alternative certificates first available to students during the 2008-2009 school year. Students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade after July 1, 2009, who are working toward a modified diploma are required to meet the criteria in the new State Regulations 581-022-1134. Student currently in high school (9<sup>th</sup> grade and beyond) and students who will enter the 9<sup>th</sup> grade before July 1, 2009, who are working toward a modified diploma must follow current district policies for modified diplomas **OR** the criteria in the new State Regulations 581-022-1134. The school team must make this decision.