EXTENDED DIPLOMA
2009-2010

A extended diploma is a document that is awarded to a special education identified student who has participated in the Oregon Extended Assessments and who has earned 12 units of credit through a combination of general education courses, modified general education courses with or without accommodations and/or through modified courses. No more than 6 credits can be earned in a self-contained setting. Most students can successfully meet the requirements of the high school diploma, however, the District recognizes that a small number of students are unable to master the regular curriculum even with reasonable modifications and accommodations.

Why consider an Extended Diploma?

An extended diploma is awarded to a special education student who has participated in Oregon's Extended Assessments for at least two years beginning no later than 6th grade, and demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards, even with reasonable accommodations, but who fulfills all of the requirements for the extended diploma as described by the Oregon State Board of Education. The extended diploma allows for flexibility to change expectations to meet the student's individual needs and better prepare them for their transition to adult living. It allows for more career development, work experience, and life skills coursework. The extended diploma requires the completion of 12 credits, dictated by the Oregon Department of Education, with at least 6 of the credits being earned in a general education setting. The decision to pursue an extended diploma can be made no earlier than the end of 6th grade and no later than 2 years before the student's anticipated exit from high school.

A modified curriculum may be necessary when a student demonstrates the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards, even with reasonable accommodations and modifications. 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 of the requirements of a consumer math course or completing a basic math course on the 6th 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.

The consideration for a extended diploma must include participation in Oregon's Extended Assessments for at least two years beginning no later than 6th grade and may include, but is not limited to: historical and current school performance data and health information, attendance and grades, and parent, teacher and student input.

A significant change in a student's health condition or educational history after grade 8 may be considered if it results in the student's participation in the Oregon Extended Assessments.

Can the Student Still Get a Modified Diploma or High School Diploma?

The diploma information is reviewed annually after the decision is made to work towards an extended diploma. The student may change to a modified diploma plan or high school diploma plan, but must meet all of the diploma requirements. The decision to pursue the extended diploma should be made only after careful consideration of the benefits and disadvantages it offers. Students may have a substantial deficit in credit areas if they start on an extended diploma plan and switch to a modified diploma plan or high school diploma plan. An example would be a deficit in language arts and science credits. Such a change may require the student to attend high school beyond the usual four years.

Considerations:

- The student must be identified for special education and have participated in Oregon's Extended Assessments for at least two years beginning no later than 6th grade unless there has been a significant change to the student's health status or educational history after 8th grade.
- The recommendation to consider a student for a extended diploma program is made by an IEP team that must include the parent and student, school administrator or designee, general education teacher, and special educator
- Signed parent consent is REQUIRED for a student to pursue an extended diploma.
- A student pursuing an extended diploma is required to obtain 12 credits, in areas listed by the State Board of Education, with no more than 6 of the required credits being earned in a self-contained classroom.
- The student can participate in a variety of electives and classes, in any setting, to support their individual learning needs, beyond the required 12 content credits.
- The IEP team recommending the extended diploma will design a schedule that assists the student with the attainment of the student's goals and addresses career and transition needs.
- The potential effects of attaining a extended diploma on college admission, military enlistment, or employment should be explored at the time that diploma options are considered. Higher education, the Military, and prospective employers may use high school completion as selection criteria. Financial assistance (FAFSA) may be limited or unavailable to students with an extended diploma.
- The **transcript** must clearly identify modified courses that count towards an extended diploma. No grade point average will be computed or listed on the transcript.
- A student engaging in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol is excluded if the significant learning and instructional barriers are **due** to the use of illegal drugs or alcohol. A student no longer engaging in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol may be considered for an extended diploma if the student:
  - Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and is no longer engaged in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol; or
  - Has been rehabilitated successfully and is no longer engaged in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol; or
  - Is participating in a supervised rehabilitation program and is no longer engaging in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol.