



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF General Counsel

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Date: February 14, 2020
To: Board Policy Committee
From: Mary Kane, Senior Legal Counsel
Subject: 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements

BACKGROUND

The 2019 Oregon Legislature made a number of revisions to statutes related to education. They became effective January 1, 2020. The District has already implemented the changes but hadn't revised the policies to align with the law. The General Counsel's office has reviewed the bills amending current statutes and incorporated or amended the District's policies and administrative directives to comply with these statutory requirements. Area Senior Directors and Senior Directors of ELL were consulted on changes to the Diploma Requirements Policy.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

It is best practice to conform existing policies to current law.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

The General Counsel's Office conducted a review of texts of 2018-2019 enrolled Oregon state senate and house bills relating to this policy, as well as revisions to the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs). We also consulted with OSBA on the policy changes by reviewing comparable OSBA policies. The following is a brief description of the state bills requiring amendments to our current policies:

In May 2019, the State Board of Education made changes to the Essential Skills Assessment for English Language Learners to allow ELL students to demonstrate proficiency in all required Essential Skills in the student's language of origin. While amending 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements to include this language, we incorporated additional statutory requirements that the District has had in place but had not been reflected in the policy.

The OAR requires 3 credits of Arts, CTE or World Languages. Our District has refined this to require 2 credits of World Language and then 1 credit of either Arts, CTE or a third World Language. We don't yet have enough CTE offerings at all the high schools to equitably require CTE of all students in the 20-21 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT

The changes will have no new fiscal impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Because these changes are driven by legislative directives, there was limited stakeholder engagement. This office did consult with various internal stakeholders to ensure that the policy and District practice align with state law.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / EVALUATION

As noted earlier, ELL and OSP had already incorporated the revisions into practice and the policy reflects current practice. We intend to send a communication to District staff through Admin Connects and PPS connections outlining all of the policy and administrative directive changes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that you approve the amendments made to this policy.

As a member of the PPS Executive Leadership Team, I have reviewed this staff report.

_____ (Initials)

ATTACHMENTS

- A. 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements, redline and clean copy