

Portland Public School District 1st Reading

DATE OF FIRST READING: APRIL 05, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR Policy 4.20.042-P: Diploma Requirements Policy

The Portland Public School District is providing Notice of Proposed Revised Policy and Public Comment to offer interested parties reasonable opportunity to submit data or comments on the proposed policies noted below.

Public comment may be submitted in writing directly to the district or through the district website noted below. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00pm on the Last Date for Comment listed below.

Last Date for Comment: April 26, 2022

Summary: **Diploma Requirements Policy 4.20.042-P**

1st Reading by: **Director Julia Brim-Edwards**
Portland Public School Board, Policy Committee Chair

Recommended for a 1st Reading by:
Portland Public Schools Board of Education
Policy Committee

Draft Policy Web Site: <https://www.pps.net/Page/11911>

Contact: **Rosanne Powell, Senior Board Manager**
Address: P.O. Box 3107, Portland, OR 97208-3107
Telephone: 503-916-3741
E-mail: schoolboard@pps.net

Included in Packet	Page
Staff Report	03
Redlined Policy with Proposed Changes	05
Original Policy	14



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF General Counsel

501 North Dixon Street / Portland, OR 97227

Telephone: (503) 916-3274

Date: April 1, 2022

To: School Board

From: Mary Kane, Senior Legal Counsel

cc: Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent
Liz Large, Contracted General Counsel

Subject: Staff Analysis Report to the Board

Policy # and Name: 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements

BACKGROUND

The 2021 Oregon legislature enacted a number of changes to graduation requirements, including adding a ½ credit civics requirement (effective for the class graduating in 2026), removing “english” from the definition of language arts, and redefining world language to allow credit to be awarded for language courses that teach a language other than the student’s primary language. After the policy came to the Board on January 25, 2022, Board members asked that the essential skills section be amended to more clearly describe the process for students and to clarify the world language changes. Staff provided suggested revisions to the Policy Committee on March 30, 2022. The Policy Committee recommended that the revisions move to the Board for a new first reading.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

It is best practice to review policies regularly to determine whether they reflect current laws and practices. It is also a best practice to write policies that are readily understandable.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

The amendments to the policy should be adopted in order to align with state law and to be more accurate and comprehensible for our community. PPS staff consulted with ODE on certain changes, as well.

FISCAL IMPACT

These changes are not expected to have a material financial impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Because these changes were driven by legislative directives, there was limited stakeholder engagement. A variety of internal stakeholders were consulted to correctly interpret and develop procedures to align with state law.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION and COMMUNICATION PLAN

Staff has already communicated to school administrators of the changes to diploma requirements and has already identified current students who are impacted by the world changes. They are also developing guidance to be shared with staff and students.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board accept the respective revisions as recommended by the Policy Committee.

	<p>BOARD POLICY</p> <p>Diploma Requirements</p>	<p>4.20.042-P</p>
---	---	--------------------------

Draft 3/228/22

~~Policy 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements~~

Diploma requirements are a significant indicator of the high expectations Portland Public Schools holds for every student. A student graduating from a Portland Public School District high school shall have completed all state requirements as well as all district requirements specified here. 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.

I. High School Diploma Requirements

- A.** To earn a high school diploma from Portland Public Schools, the following credits and proficiencies are required.

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts	4
Math (Algebra 1 and Above)	3
Science	3
Social Studies (including ½ credit of Civics beginning with the class graduating in 2026)	3
Physical Education	1
Health Education	1
World Language (2 credits in same language)	2
Career and Technical Education, the Arts, or a third credit of World Language	3
Electives	4
Total Credits	24

	<p>BOARD POLICY</p> <p>Diploma Requirements</p>	<p>4.20.042-P</p>
---	--	--------------------------

1. In addition to the above credit requirements, students must:
 - a. Develop a Personal Education Plan and build an education profile,
 - b. Demonstrate Career Related Learning Standards,
 - c. Participate in Career Related Learning Experiences,
 - d. Complete an Extended Application.

2. World language credit may be awarded for a language course that teaches a language other than the student's primary language. The World Language definition is based both on the individual student's linguistic background and the standards/content coverage of the course.

- B. Credit Requirements:** Requirements and procedures for awarding credit will be specified in an accompanying Administrative Directive approved by the Superintendent.
- C. Proficiency credit:** Proficiency credit will be awarded in accordance with State law and district guidelines.
- D.** If the District requires diploma requirements beyond the state requirements, the District shall grant a waiver for those requirements to any student who, at any time from grade 9 to 12, was:
1. A foster child;
 2. Homeless;
 3. A runaway;
 4. A child in a military family covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children;
 5. A child of a migrant worker; or
 6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program.

For any student identified above, the District shall accept any credits earned by the student in another district or public charter school, applying those credits toward the state requirements for a diploma if the credits satisfied those requirements in that district or public charter school.

E. Essential Skills:

	<p>BOARD POLICY</p> <p>Diploma Requirements</p>	<p>4.20.042-P</p>
---	--	--------------------------

Essential skills credit will be awarded in accordance with State law¹ and District guidelines.

1. ~~The District will allow~~ English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in all required Essential Skills in the student's ~~language of origin~~ primary language.
2. The District will ~~develop procedures to provide and administer~~ Essential Skills ~~assessments sample options~~ in the ELL student's ~~primary language language of origin~~, and ~~will develop procedures to ensure that locally scored assessment options is administered in an ELL student's language of origin they will be~~ are scored by a qualified rater.
3. Students may appeal the denial of a diploma based on the Essential Skills graduation requirement through the Formal Public Complaint process found in 4.50.032-P. The District will retain student work samples and student performance data to ensure that sufficient evidence is available in the event of an appeal.

II. Modified Diploma Requirements

- A. A modified diploma will be awarded to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards established by the State Board of Education and the Portland Public Schools' Board of Education for a diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations.
- B. To be eligible for a modified diploma a student must:
 1. Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievements due to significant learning and instruction barriers; or
 2. Have a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.
 3. Earn 24 credits between grade nine through the completion of high school, which shall include the following credits:

¹ The State of Oregon has suspended the Essential Skills requirement for the classes graduating in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

	<p>BOARD POLICY</p> <p>Diploma Requirements</p>	<p>4.20.042-P</p>
---	---	--------------------------

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts	3
Mathematics	2
Science	2
Social Studies (including ½ credit of Civics beginning with the class graduating in 2026)	2
Physical Education	1
Health Education	1
Career and Technical Education, the Arts, or World Language	1
Electives	12
Credits	24


4. In addition to the above credit requirements, students must:
- a. Develop a Personal Education Plan and build an education profile,
 - b. Demonstrate Career Related Learning Standards,
 - c. Participate in Career Related Learning Experiences,
 - d. Complete an Extended Application,
 - e. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations.
- C.** Requirements and procedures for awarding credit will be specified in an accompanying Administrative Directive approved by the Superintendent.

	BOARD POLICY Diploma Requirements	4.20.042-P
---	--	-------------------

- D. Proficiency credit may be awarded in accordance with State law and district guidelines.
- E. Students may earn units of credit through regular education with or without accommodations or modifications and through modified courses.

III. Extended Diploma Requirements

- A. An extended diploma will be awarded to students who have met specific requirements established by the State Board of Education and have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards even with reasonable accommodations and modifications.
- B. To be eligible for an extended diploma a student must:
 1. Have participated in an alternate assessment beginning no later than grade six and lasting for two or more assessment cycles; or
 2. Have a serious illness or injury that occurs after grade eight, that changes the student's ability to participate in grade level activities and that results in the student participating in alternate assessments.
 3. Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
 4. Have a documented medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

	<p>BOARD POLICY</p> <p>Diploma Requirements</p>	<p>4.20.042-P</p>
---	---	--------------------------

5. Earn the following 12 credits between grade nine through the completion of high school:

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts	2
Mathematics	2
Science	2
Social Studies	3
Physical Education	1
Health Education	1
Career and Technical Education, the Arts, or World Language	1
Credits	12

- C. Requirements and procedures for awarding credit will be specified in an accompanying Administrative Directive approved by the Superintendent.

IV. Alternative Certificate Requirements

- A. Alternative certificates shall be awarded to students who meet the minimum requirements established by the district, but do not satisfy the requirements for a high school diploma, modified diploma, or extended diploma.
- B. An alternative certificate will be awarded based on a student’s needs and achievement.

	<p>BOARD POLICY</p> <p>Diploma Requirements</p>	<p>4.20.042-P</p>
---	--	--------------------------

- C. Requirements and procedures for awarding the certificate will be specified in an accompanying Administrative Directive approved by the Superintendent.
- D. Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for an alternative certificate, the District shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of an alternative certificate.

V. Additional Information

A. Exceptions to PPS-specific Graduation Requirements

1. The Superintendent shall grant exceptions to PPS diploma requirements in excess of State diploma requirements. The Superintendent will establish a Diploma Exceptions Committee to meet quarterly to consider these requests. The Superintendent will report annually to the Board on the number and nature of waivers granted for the school year.

B. Graduating in Less Than Four Years: The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years upon the request of the student and, if required, the consent of the student's parent or guardian.

C. A student may satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate in less than four years but not less than three years. To satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an 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 Superintendent who will annually report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the number of such consents.

D. Participation in Graduation: All students who receive a high school diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma, or alternative certificate have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class unless the

	BOARD POLICY Diploma Requirements	4.20.042-P
---	--	-------------------

student is deemed ineligible due to discipline violations.

- E. Issuance of Diplomas to Veterans:** As specified in Oregon statute, the district will issue a high school diploma, upon request, to a person who served in the Armed Forces if:
1. The person was discharged or released under honorable conditions, and
 2. Has received either a General Education Development, a post-secondary degree, or has received a minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.
 3. Resides within the boundaries of the school district or is a resident of this state and attended a high school of the school district, and

4. Served in the Armed Forces during wartime or was physically present in areas designated as combat zones by the President of the United States and
5. Did not graduate from a high school because the person was serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Legal Reference(s): ORS 329.095, ORS 329.451, ORS 332.107, ORS 332.114, ORS 339.115, ORS 343.295, OAR 581-021-0071, OAR 581-022-0615, OAR 581-022-1130, OAR 581-022-1210, OAR 581-022-1350, HB 2061 (2009), HB 2507 (2009)

History; Adpt. 6/71; Amd. 10/72; Amd. 6/72; Amd. 5/76; Amd. 10/76; Amd. 2/84; Amd. 9/9/02, BA 2420; Amd and combined with 4.20.040-P Graduation 5-23-2005 (BA3313); Amd. 2/10; Amd 1/18; Amd 1/20; [Amd 1/22](#)



Board Policy

4.20.042-P

Diploma Requirements

Diploma requirements are a significant indicator of the high expectations Portland Public Schools holds for every student. A student graduating from a Portland Public School District high school shall have completed all state requirements as well as all district requirements specified here. 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.

I. High School Diploma Requirements

- A. To earn a high school diploma from Portland Public Schools, the following credits and proficiencies are required.

Subject	Credits
English	4
Math (Algebra 1 and above)	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Physical Education	1
Health Education	1
World Language (2 credits in the same language)	2
Career and Technical Education, the Arts, or a third credit of World Language	1
Electives	6
Total Credits	24

1. In addition to the above credit requirements, students must:
 - a. Develop a Personal Education Plan and build an education profile,
 - b. Demonstrate Career Related Learning Standards,
 - c. Participate in Career Related Learning Experiences,
 - d. Complete an Extended Application.
- B. Credit Requirements: Requirements and procedures for awarding credit will be specified in an accompanying Administrative Directive approved by the Superintendent.
- C. Proficiency credit: Proficiency credit will be awarded in accordance with



Board Policy

4.20.042-P

Diploma Requirements

State law and district guidelines.

- D. If the District requires diploma requirements beyond the state requirements, the District shall grant a waiver for those requirements to any student who, at any time from grade 9 to 12, was:
1. A foster child;
 2. Homeless;
 3. A runaway;
 4. A child in a military family covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children;
 5. A child of a migrant worker; or
 6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program.

For any student identified above, the District shall accept any credits earned by the student in another district or public charter school, applying those credits toward the state requirements for a diploma if the credits satisfied those requirements in that other district or public charter school.

- E. Essential Skills:
1. The District will allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in all required Essential Skills in the student's language of origin.
 2. The District will develop procedures to provide Essential Skills sample options in the ELL student's language of origin and will develop procedures to ensure that locally scored assessment options administered in an ELL student's language of origin are scored by a qualified rater.
 3. Students may appeal the denial of a diploma based on the Essential Skills graduation requirement through the Formal Public Complaint process found in 4.50.032-P. The District will retain student work samples and student performance data to ensure that sufficient evidence is available in the event of an appeal.

II. Modified Diploma Requirements

- A. A modified diploma will be awarded to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards established by the State Board of Education and the Portland Public Schools' Board of Education for a diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations.



Board Policy

4.20.042-P

Diploma Requirements

- B. To be eligible for a modified diploma a student must:
1. Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievements due to significant learning and instruction barriers; or
 2. Have a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.
 3. Earn 24 credits between grade nine through the completion of high school, which shall include the following credits:

Subject	Credits
English	3
Mathematics	2
Science	2
Social Studies	2
Physical Education	1
Health Education	1
Career and Technical Education, the Arts, or World Language	1
Electives	12
Total Credits	24

4. In addition to the above credit requirements, students must:
 - a. Develop a Personal Education Plan and build an education profile,
 - b. Demonstrate Career Related Learning Standards,
 - c. Participate in Career Related Learning Experiences,
 - d. Complete an Extended Application,
 - e. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations.
- C. Requirements and procedures for awarding credit will be specified in an accompanying Administrative Directive approved by the Superintendent.
- D. Proficiency credit may be awarded in accordance with State law and district guidelines.
- E. Students may earn units of credit through regular education with or without



Board Policy

4.20.042-P

Diploma Requirements

accommodations or modifications and through modified courses.

III. Extended Diploma Requirements

- A. An extended diploma will be awarded to students who have met specific requirements established by the State Board of Education and have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards even with reasonable accommodations and modifications.
- B. To be eligible for an extended diploma a student must:
1. Have participated in an alternate assessment beginning no later than grade six and lasting for two or more assessment cycles; or
 2. Have a serious illness or injury that occurs after grade eight, that changes the student's ability to participate in grade level activities and that results in the student participating in alternate assessments.
 3. Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
 4. Have a documented medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.
 5. Earn the following 12 credits between grade nine through the completion of high school:

Subject	Credits
English	2
Mathematics	2
Science	2
Social Studies	3
Physical Education	1
Health Education	1
Career and Technical Education, the Arts, or World Language	1
Total Credits	12

- C. Requirements and procedures for awarding credit will be specified in an accompanying Administrative Directive approved by the Superintendent.

IV. Alternative Certificate Requirements



Board Policy

4.20.042-P

Diploma Requirements

- A. Alternative certificates shall be awarded to students who meet the minimum requirements established by the district, but do not satisfy the requirements for a high school diploma, modified diploma, or extended diploma.
- B. An alternative certificate will be awarded based on a student's needs and achievement.
- C. Requirements and procedures for awarding the certificate will be specified in an accompanying Administrative Directive approved by the Superintendent.
- D. Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for an alternative certificate, the District shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student information about the availability and requirements of an alternative certificate.

V. Additional Information

- A. Exceptions to PPS-specific Graduation Requirements
 - 1. The Superintendent shall grant exceptions to PPS diploma requirements in excess of State diploma requirements. The Superintendent will establish a Diploma Exceptions Committee to meet quarterly to consider these requests. The Superintendent will report annually to the Board on the number and nature of waivers granted for the schools year.
- B. Graduating in Less Than Four Years: The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years upon the request of the student and, if required, the consent of the student's parent or guardian.
- C. A student may satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or an alternative certificate in less than four years but not less than three years. To satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or an 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



Board Policy

4.20.042-P

Diploma Requirements

be forwarded to the Superintendent who will annually report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the number of such consents.

- D. Participation in Graduation: All students who receive a high school diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma, or alternative certificate have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class unless student is deemed ineligible due to discipline violations.
- E. Issuance of Diplomas to Veterans: As specified in Oregon statute, the district will issue a high school diploma, upon request, to a person who served in the Armed Forces if:
1. The person was discharged or released under honorable conditions, and
 2. Has received either a General Education Development, a post-secondary degree, or has received a minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.
 3. Resides within the boundaries of the school district or is a resident of this state and attended a high school of the school district, and
 4. Served in the Armed Forces during wartime or was physically present in areas designated as combat zones by the President of the United States and
 5. Did not graduate from a high school because the person was serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Legal Reference(s): ORS 329.095, ORS 329.451, ORS 332.107, ORS 332.114, ORS 339.115, ORS 343.295, OAR 581-021-0071, OAR 581-022-0615, OAR 581-022-1130, OAR 581-022-1210, OAR 581-022-1350, HB 2061 (2009), HB 2507 (2009)
History; Adpt. 6/71; Amd. 10/72; Amd. 6/72; Amd. 5/76; Amd. 10/76; Amd. 2/84; Amd. 9/9/02, BA 2420; Amd and combined with 4.20.040-P Graduation 5-23-2005 (BA3313); Amd. 2/10; Amd 1/18; Amd 2/20