



Graduation Requirements- Modified Diploma, Extended Diploma, and Alternative Certificate

It is the goal of Portland Public Schools to support all students in achieving high academic standards and earn a high school diploma. The district recognizes that for a small number of students a modified diploma, extended diploma, or alternative certificate is the best way to make meaningful academic gains and successfully transition to post-secondary connections due to significant learning and instructional barriers.

I. Definitions

- A. Documented History: 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: a significant physical, cognitive or emotional barrier that impairs a student's ability to maintain grade level achievement.
- C. Modified Course: a course that has been systematically changed or altered for a student only after reasonable instructional strategies (e.g. accommodations, remediation) are exhausted.
- D. Credit by 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.

II. General Requirements



Graduation Requirements- Modified Diploma, Extended Diploma, and Alternative Certificate

grades 9-12 have been modified for the student. Transcripts will clearly identify modified courses that do not count toward the high school diploma but do count toward a modified or extended diploma.

III. Consent Requirements

- A. Written consent is required at the time the modified or extended diploma decision is made by the school team, as defined in section V. (E) below, and also required during the school year in which the modified or extended diploma is awarded.
- B. Consent must be provided as follows:
 - 1. By the parent/guardian if the student is under 18 years old and not emancipated;
 - 2. By the student if the student is 18 years old or older, or under 18 and emancipated; or
 - 3. By the guardian if the student is 18 or older and has a court-appointed legal guardian.

IV. Exclusions

- A. Eligibility for a modified or extended diploma does not apply to students engaging in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol if the significant learning and instructional barriers are due to the use of illegal drugs or alcohol.
- B. A student no longer engaging in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol may be considered for a modified or extended diploma if the student:
 - 1. Has successfully completed a supervised drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and is no longer engaged in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol; or
 - 2. Has been rehabilitated successfully and is no longer engaged in the illegal use of drugs or alcohol; or
 - 3. Is participating in a supervised rehabilitation program and is no longer engaging in the use of illegal drugs or alcohol.

V. Modified Diploma

- A. PPS may only award a modified diploma to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high school diploma even with reasonable modifications and accommodations.
- B. Although the modified diploma is considered by the state to be the equivalent



Administrative Directive 4.20.049-AD

Graduation Requirements- Modified Diploma, Extended Diploma, and Alternative Certificate

F. Requirements for Receiving a Modified Diploma:

1. A modified diploma requires successful completion of the following:
 - a. a modified diploma plan of 24 credits, including the following 12 credits of study as outlined below:
 - b. 12 units of credit to meet the needs of the individual student's education plan. Of these 12 credits, 9 should be in the areas of school-to-work transition, school-to-life transition, career related learning, or future education.

Subject	Units of Credit
English Language Arts	3
Mathematics	2
Science	2
Social Sciences (which may include history, civics, geography and Economics, including personal finance)	2
Health Education	1
Physical Education	1
Career Technical Education, The Arts or Second Languages (units may be earned in any one or a combination)	1
Total Required Content Credits	12

- c. **Essential Skills:** A student receiving a modified diploma must demonstrate proficiency in the essential skills of reading, writing and math. The proficiency standard may be modified for students pursuing a modified diploma. The modified standard is determined by the student's IEP or 504 team and documented on the IEP or 504 plan.
- d. **Oregon's Personalized Learning Requirements:** A student receiving a modified diploma must:
 - 1) develop a personal education plan and education profile
 - 2) demonstrate extended application through a collection of evidence
 - 3) demonstrate career-related knowledge and skills
- e. Students shall have the option to earn credit by demonstrating proficiency.



Graduation Requirements- Modified Diploma, Extended Diploma, and Alternative Certificate

VI. Extended Diploma

- A. An extended diploma is a document that is awarded to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high school diploma or modified diploma even with reasonable modifications and accommodations.
- B. An extended diploma is not equivalent to a high school diploma and may limit access to post-secondary options.
- C. Criteria for consideration for an extended diploma:
 - 1. A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers;
 - 2. A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement; or
 - 3. A serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight, that changed the student's ability to participate in grade level activities.
- D. Decision-Making Team
 - 1. The decision to consider a student for an extended diploma will be made by a team composed, at a minimum, of the following members:
 - a. building administrator or designee,
 - b. general education teacher,
 - c. counselor or case manager,
 - d. student, and
 - e. parent/guardian if the student is under 18 and not emancipated, or if the student is over 18 and has a court-appointed legal guardian.
 - 2. For a student with a 504, the school 504 coordinator must be in attendance, and the 504 team makes the decision.
 - 3. For a student served by ESL, an ESL administrator or designee must be in attendance.
 - 4. For students on an IEP, the IEP team makes the decision. The parent must be in attendance. A building administrator or designee must be part of the IEP team when considering an extended diploma.
- E. When Extended Diploma Decision is Made
 - 1. Consideration for an extended diploma may take place as early as the end of 6th grade and no later than 2 years before the student's anticipated exit from high school.



Administrative Directive 4.20.049-AD

**Graduation Requirements- Modified
Diploma, Extended Diploma, and
Alternative Certificate**

a.



Administrative Directive 4.20.049-AD

**Graduation Requirements- Modified
Diploma, Extended Diploma, and
Alternative Certificate**

diploma and has met IEP goals and/or showed measurable progress on IEP goals, attained 24 credits in non-core areas, and was enrolled for a