



SOUTH LANE SCHOOL DISTRICT DIPLOMA OPTIONS

Modified Diploma

A Modified Diploma may be awarded to a student who has earned 72 credits through a combination of general education courses and modified courses. Rather than having to demonstrate essential skills through typical standardized assessment, students receiving a Modified Diploma may do so using non-standard administration and scoring methods. It may be awarded to special education or regular education students who meet the criteria for this option.

Extended Diploma

An Extended Diploma may be awarded to a special education student who has earned 36 units of credit through a combination of general education and modified coursework and has participated in Oregon's Extended Assessments, as opposed to Oregon's Standard State Assessments.

In order to be considered for a **Modified Diploma**, a student must meet the following criteria:

- a. A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning or instructional barriers; or
- b. A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

In order to be considered for an **Extended Diploma**, a student must meet the following criteria:

- a. A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning or instructional barriers and participation in an extended assessment beginning in no later than grade six and lasting for two or more assessment cycles; or
- b. Have a serious illness or injury that occurs after grade eight that changes the student's ability to participate in grade level activities and results in the student participating in an extended assessment.

Why consider a Modified or Extended Diploma?

A Modified or Extended Diploma may be awarded if a student has demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic standards, even with reasonable accommodations. These diploma options allow for flexibility to change expectations, meet the student's individual needs, and better prepare them for their transition to adult life. These options allow for more career development, work experiences, and life skills coursework. The decision to pursue a Modified or 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. This decision should be made only after careful consideration of the benefits and disadvantages it offers.

Can the student still get a Regular High School Diploma?

Diploma information is reviewed annually even after a decision to work toward Modified or Extended Diploma is made. If the student ultimately meets the requirements for a Regular Oregon Diploma, it will be awarded. For example, a student may have a substantial deficit in credit areas as they start down a path toward earning a Modified Diploma, but switch to a path which will earn a Regular Oregon Diploma upon completion of an adequate credit recovery program.

Considerations:

- The recommendation to consider a student for a Modified or Extended Diploma program is made by a team that must include the parent and student as well as relevant school staff members.
- Signed parent consent is required for a student to pursue a Modified or Extended Diploma. Parent signature is not required for students who have reached the age of 18. Note that declining to grant permission for the award of a Modified or Extended Diploma will result in no diploma documenting high school completion being awarded if requirements for a Regular Oregon Diploma have not been met.
- The potential effects of attaining a Modified or Extended Diploma on college admission, military enlistment, or eligibility for financial aid should be considered.
 - Most four-year universities do not accept a Modified or Extended Diploma; however an appeal may be considered by some universities. Community college courses are available to students who receive a Modified or Extended Diploma. College placement examinations will have a bearing on what courses students are eligible to enroll in.
 - Some branches of the military may accept a Modified Diploma. Acceptance depends on current needs of the military and criteria may change quickly. All branches of the service have minimum scores required for entry on a placement test called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
 - The US Department of Education has stated that the Oregon Modified and Extended Diplomas do not meet high school diploma requirements for Federal student aid eligibility. However, as an alternative to having a standard high school diploma, a student may establish eligibility for Federal aid by passing an independently administered test approved by the US Department of Education.
- A student who graduates with a Modified or Extended Diploma may continue public education until such time as they earn a Regular Oregon Diploma or reach the age of 21.
- Students earning a Modified or Extended Diploma may participate in all high school graduation ceremonies in the same manner as a student earning a Regular Oregon Diploma.
- Students earning a Modified or Extended Diploma from South Lane School District are, in fact, high school graduates and may present themselves as such for purposes of job applications and resumes.