



Inspiring Today's Students To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

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KCSD planning new diploma to emphasize career, technical fields
Expected to roll-out in 2017-18 school year

As Klamath County students make their way through high school, not everyone has their sights set on college. These students like working with their hands. They like knowing what they're learning will be useful in a job.

But with all the focus on academics and college, some of these students may give up. The Klamath County School District wants to give these students a reason to keep coming to class until graduation.

This year, the district is designing a unique diploma for these students who want to go straight into the workforce after graduation. Though the name is still in the works, this new diploma emphasizes what is known as [CTE](#): Career Technical Education.



“One of our primary goals is to recapture a significant number of our current non-graduate population and keep them engaged in our traditional high schools,” secondary curriculum director Jeff Bullock wrote in a presentation to the Klamath County School Board on Oct. 13.

In the register of [diplomas](#), the new diploma will fit between a [modified diploma](#) and a standard diploma. It is a more rigorous version of the modified diploma, requiring five CTE credits and an additional credit in applied math or language arts.

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Required Credits:	Modified Diploma	“Career and Tech” Diploma	Standard Diploma
English credits	3	3	4
Math credits	2	2	3
Science credits	2	2	3
Social Studies credits	2	2	3
Health/PE	2	2	2
World language/art/CTE	1	5 CTE	3
Technical applied math or English	0	1	0
Total credits	24	24	24
Percent of total credits required	50 %	75 %	75 %
Counts as a graduate	Yes	Yes	Yes
University ready	No	No	Yes
Oregon Promise eligible with GPA	Yes	Yes	Yes
Military Service eligible	No	Maybe with ASVAB	Yes

Every Klamath County high school has enough of these CTE courses to qualify for the five credits. Whether it is ag mechanics, manufacturing, automotive, welding, business or another career-type course.

Students who earn this diploma will count as graduates under the Oregon Department of Education, and will be eligible for the Oregon Promise and most community colleges with the appropriate GPA. If they have good ASVAB scores, they may also qualify for military service.

An additional requirement of this new diploma sets another goal to get the graduates workforce ready.

The [National Career Readiness Certificate](#) is a standardized test that covers applied mathematics, locating information and reading information. Employers use it as a benchmark when considering new employees. Having a good NCRC score could mean a guaranteed interview or a higher pay level. In Klamath County, 56 businesses support the NCRC program.

“We added this to the diploma to give it additional rigor and meaning,” Bullock said.

After presenting to the school board in October, Bullock will continue to refine the details of the new diploma – including a name – and bring it back to the school board again in November. He plans to have the program ready for the 2017-18 school year.



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