

KLAMATH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT DIPLOMA OPTIONS

- **Oregon Standard Diploma**
- **Honors-Diploma Program**
- **Modified Diploma**
- **Extended Diploma**
- **Certificate of Achievement**
- **General Education Development (GED)**



Prepared by: Klamath County School District Special Services Department

Rev. 8/2018

Career-Related Learning Experiences: Students participate in experiences that connect classroom learning with real life experiences in the workplace, community, and/or school relevant to their education plan.

Extended Application: Students apply and extend their knowledge in new and complex situations related to the student’s personal and/or career interests and post-high school goals through critical thinking, problem solving, or inquiry in real world contexts. This is often referred to as a “Senior Project.”

Honors Program and Diploma

The intent of the KCS D Honors Diploma is to ensure a course of academic study that prepares the student for university admission and college success.

1. Required Components:

- a. 3.5 GPA for the first seven semesters;
- b. Minimum of 28 total credits;
- c. Minimum of 24 graded credits.
- d. Four Credits of:
 - (1) English;
 - (2) Science;
 - (3) Math (or through the equivalent of Math 111 or 112).
- e. Two credits of the same World Language;
- f. Eight or more credits in Advanced, Honors, AP, or College Level classes as determined by the school. For the Graduating Class of 2018 and beyond, Valedictorians and Salutatorians shall be based on the highest GPA of seniors who will earn an Honors Diploma. In the event that no student will earn an Honors Diploma, Valedictorians and Salutatorians will be determined on GPA only.

KLAMATH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MODIFIED AND EXTENDED DIPLOMA

MODIFIED AND EXTENDED DIPLOMA PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

It is the intent of Klamath County School District to encourage every student to graduate with an Oregon Diploma. To achieve this goal it is necessary to provide options designed for individual student needs. KCS D offers a Standard Diploma, Honors Diploma, Modified Diploma, Extended Diploma and Alternative Certificates. The Modified Diploma provides a program for students who are not capable of graduating with the Standard Diploma. The Extended Diploma and Alternative Certificates are available only to students with an IEP. It is our intent to support the integrity of academic excellence; a goal which has always been expected in the Klamath County School District. Thus, strict standards of academic achievement will be maintained.

The Modified Diploma shall not be considered for students who could be earning a Standard Diploma except for reasons not within their ability and control.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE MODIFIED DIPLOMA CONCEPT

LEGAL PERSPECTIVE

The need for an alternative award to the Standard Diploma has been an issue in secondary education for some time. It has been established through litigation that IDEA does not require handicapped students to achieve a Standard Diploma (Brucard vs. Illinois State Board Circuit Court). The courts have further made it clear that tests used to measure competencies for a Standard Diploma can be altered, but not modified specifically so a student can pass. In writing the law, Congress placed emphasis on when and how to terminate services but did not specify the nature of the actual award for satisfactory achievement. The Congress and the courts have mandated that the decision to deviate from preparation for a Standard Diploma is a decision of the IEP team that must be made in advance of receiving the award. Early discussion of the options and kinds of recognition open to the student is stressed. The legal precedence for a Modified Diploma Program has been established.

STATE'S PERSPECTIVE

The State of Oregon, in its 2008 revised graduation guidelines, states that a Modified Diploma is appropriate for a student who meet the following eligibility criteria: *A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student; or a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.*

The State also makes it clear that a Modified Diploma should not be given to only one group of students, such as any one group with a particular disability. (ORS 343.295) The Modified Diploma should be offered to all students for whom the basic program has been significantly modified. The Klamath County School District Modified Diploma Program is designed to offer a structured alternative similar in format to the Standard Diploma, but flexible enough to meet individual needs. Modified Diploma decisions must be made by a school team and should occur by the end of a student's sophomore year.

KLAMATH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PERSPECTIVE

By state standards KCSD is required to offer alternative diploma programs. The School Team will address individual needs and, set clear expectations that are similar to the Standard Diploma. The issue of when a student is placed on the Modified Diploma track is a critical decision that must be made at the appropriate time by a multidisciplinary School Team. KCSD has met the intentions of the State Department of Education by providing formal documentation of the student's status with the school prior to graduation. At the same time, we have built in student expectations which can be individualized, while keeping the student responsible for meeting the requirements of the Modified Diploma.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID (FAFSA)

In order for a student to receive federal financial aid (FAFSA) to assist with their college tuition expenses, the student must have a:

- Standard High School Diploma (a diploma that meets the criteria of an Oregon Diploma as delineated in OAR 581-022-1130); or

- Modified High School Diploma (a diploma that meets the criteria of an Oregon Modified Diploma as delineated in OAR 581-022-1130); or
- General Educational Development (GED) Certificate
- **Oregon students who receive an Extended Diploma or Certificate of Achievement are not eligible to apply for federal financial aid.**

Modified Diploma Program

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING A MODIFIED DIPLOMA

A Modified Diploma will be awarded to each student who has satisfactorily completed the educational program prescribed by the School Team and KCSD. This will include earning required credits and passing modified competencies. The determination of those students who will be placed on a Modified Diploma track will be made by the School Team. A student's IEP/PEP will indicate course goals, level of competence, and performance indicators to be employed. Students will be expected to maintain the same level of standards concerning attendance, (i.e., a minimum of eight semesters of high school or their equivalent).

ELIGIBILITY

A student will be considered a candidate for the Modified Diploma Program if he/she meets one or more of the following eligibility criteria:

A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student,

--OR--

A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement

MODIFIED DIPLOMA TIMELINE

A student's school team shall decide that a student should work toward a modified diploma no earlier than the end of the 6th grade and no later than two years before the student's anticipated exit from high school.

A student's School Team may decide that a student who is working towards a Regular Diploma should work toward a Modified Diploma when a student is less than two years from anticipated exit from high school if there has been a change in the documented history of the student's inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers or the documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

MODIFIED DIPLOMA PROCEDURES

When a student is being considered for a Modified Diploma Program, the School Team should follow the steps listed below.

1. A careful study of the student's records should be made including district-wide standardized test scores and/or individual test results, teacher observations, and pupil performance ratings of at least the last full school year.
2. A conference will be held to review student progress, potential to learn, and the School Team's recommendation for parent approval or refusal.

3. The case manager or counselor of the student will coordinate his/her course schedules and maintain communication with the parent regarding progress toward completion of the Modified Diploma.
4. The school district may award a Modified Diploma to a student only upon the consent of the parent or guardian of the student. The school district must receive the consent in writing and during the school year in which the Modified Diploma is to be awarded.

Any student in the Modified Diploma Program does have the right to petition to re-enter the Standard Diploma Program. In the case of a student with an IEP, a careful projection of the effort and time commitment necessary to meet credit requirements in Standard Diploma courses will be completed. Such a change in the graduate's plan could extend the school experience by one or more school years. This is due to the fact students would have to repeat those courses in which a modified grade was earned. Students can work on completion of a Modified Diploma through the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-one (21); however, modified placement sites may be required for this work after the age of eighteen (18). Accordingly, care should be taken to recommend students for a Modified Diploma only when a very clear need for such an adjusted program is documented.

MONITORING THE MODIFIED DIPLOMA

The School Team will monitor the modified course of study for the student. It is recommended that this occur once per semester. For those students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) the modifications will be detailed within the IEP. For those students without an IEP, a Personal Education Plan (PEP) for completing the Modified Diploma Program is required.

REQUIRED PROVISIONS AS PART OF A MODIFIED DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Klamath County School District agrees to provide the following:

- Access to literacy instruction until graduation
- Access to needed courses
- On-site access to appropriate resources at each high school
- Modifications and supports
- Substantial academics
- Educational Profile
- Extended Application
- Essential Skills

MODIFIED DIPLOMA AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Students who are working toward a Modified Diploma are required to demonstrate the Essential Skills of the ability to read and comprehend a variety of text, write clearly and accurately, and to apply math.

The School Team is responsible for approving adjustment of the assessment achievement standard to indicate proficiency for each student who is to receive a Modified Diploma. The team may alter the official state cut scores only for students with an IEP. Students without an IEP may have modified work samples but the team may not alter the official state cut score.

MODIFIED DIPLOMA REFERRAL AND RECOMMENDATION FORM

Name _____ Birth Date _____ Sex _____

Address _____
Street Number/Name City Zip Code

Referring person _____

The following information should accompany referral when presented to School Team:

_____ Test Scores Summary (attached) _____ Transcript (attached)
_____ Behavioral Statement (attached) _____ Attendance Statement (attached)

State the reason that causes you to refer this student:

_____ Disabled _____ Functioning significantly below grade placement
_____ Medical Condition

Comments: _____

Referring Person's Signature _____ Date _____

_____ Eligible for Modified Diploma _____ Ineligible for Modified Diploma
_____ IEP (Disabled) _____ PEP (Non-Disabled)

TEACHER NOTIFICATION OF MODIFIED DIPLOMA

Your student, _____, is in the Modified Diploma Program to achieve academic standards at his/her own level of ability and meet the attendance policy requirements. Your student may be assessed using modified grade options:

Course Title: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Semester: _____

Period: _____

Some suggested modification to the regular curriculum:

Grade Options:

Contact me if you have any concerns.

School Team Representative's Signature / Date

MODIFIED DIPLOMA AGREEMENT

We have reviewed and understand the graduation requirements for Oregon’s class of _____. After discussing all options, we the undersigned have agreed that the educational program which best meets _____’s needs will result in pursuing a Modified Diploma. We understand that a modified program will not meet all the requirements for a Standard High School Diploma.

The Modified Diploma will include courses in the following areas:

12 required credits

- English/Language Arts – 3
- Mathematics – 2
- Science – 2
- Social Sciences – 2
- Health Education – 1
- Physical Education – 1
- CTE, Arts or 2nd Language – 1

12 additional credits

- Additional core credits
- Career and Technical Education
- Electives
- Career Development

This diploma will be awarded after the completion of 24 units of credit and the demonstration of proficiency in the required Essential Skills as outlined in

_____’s (*CHECK ONE)
_____ Individual Education Program (IEP) or
_____ Personal Education Program (PEP),

a copy of which will be provided to the parent.

The student or parent of a minor may, at any time, petition for a return to a Standard Diploma Program. We understand that such a change may require that the student may access school services beyond the usual four years to earn the credit for a Standard Diploma or up to/or through the end of the school year in which the student turn twenty-one (21) years old.

(Parent)

(Administrator)

(Student)

(Counselor)

(Case Manager)

***ATTACH PEP OR IEP**

**MODIFIED DIPLOMA PROGRAM
Parent Permission**

I give permission for _____ to be in the Modified Diploma Program. In signing this permission I understand that the following requirements need to be met for graduation:

Student must have 24 credits.

12 required credits

- English/Language Arts – 3
- Mathematics – 2
- Science – 2
- Social Sciences – 2
- Health Education – 1
- Physical Education – 1
- CTE, Arts or 2nd Language – 1

12 additional credits

- Additional core credits
- Career and Technical Education
- Electives
- Career Development

Student must demonstrate proficiency in the required Essential Skills.

The Modified Diploma provides a program for students who are not capable of graduating with the Standard Diploma. Under federal guidelines, students who graduate with a Modified Diploma have the option to apply for federal student aid to assist with their college tuition. This program is not appropriate for students planning to go to a four-year college within the near future. If students wish to consider a vocational/technical school, community college, or the military, they need to look closely at the entry requirements to see if the program will accept a Modified Diploma.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____
Date

Student Signature _____
Date

CREDIT CHECKLIST FOR MODIFIED CURRICULUM/DIPLOMA

Student _____ Birth date _____

Date Initiated _____ Credits Required: 24

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (6 semesters --- 3 credits)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

MATHEMATICS (4 semesters --- 2 credits)

_____	_____	_____	_____
-------	-------	-------	-------

SCIENCE (4 semesters --- 2 credits)

_____	_____	_____	_____
-------	-------	-------	-------

SOCIAL SCIENCES (4 semesters --- 2 credits)

_____	_____	_____	_____
-------	-------	-------	-------

HEALTH EDUCATION (2 semesters --- 1 credit)

_____	_____
-------	-------

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (2 semesters --- 1 credit)

_____	_____
-------	-------

CTE, ARTS OR 2ND LANGUAGE (2 semesters --- 1 credit)

_____	_____
-------	-------

ADDITIONAL CORE CREDITS, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION,
ELECTIVES, OR CAREER DEVELOPMENT (12 credits)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

MODIFIED DIPLOMA = 24 credits

ESSENTIAL SKILLS: Student must demonstrate proficiency in the required Essential Skills.

Extended Diploma Program

REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING AN EXTENDED DIPLOMA

An Extended Diploma will be awarded to each student who has satisfactorily completed the educational program prescribed by their KCS D IEP Team.

High School required credits may be earned by passing modified competencies. The determination of those students who will be placed on an Extended Diploma track will be made by their IEP Team. A student's IEP will indicate course goals, level of competence, and performance indicators to be employed. Students will be expected to demonstrate adequate attendance each semester for credit.

Oregon students who receive an Extended Diploma are **not** eligible to apply for federal financial aid. This does not impact a student's ability to apply for state aid, private grants, or scholarships.

EXTENDED DIPLOMA PROCEDURES

When a student is being considered for Extended Diploma program the IEP Team should follow the steps listed below. This decision is not limited by time as rigorously as the Modified Diploma and could conceivably be made as early as late elementary school and as late as the senior year in high school.

1. A careful study of the student's records should be made including district-wide standardized test scores and/or individual test results, teacher observations, and pupil performance ratings of at least the last full school year.
2. A conference will be held to review student progress, potential to learn, and the IEP Team recommendation for parent approval or refusal.
3. The IEP case manager of the student will coordinate his course schedules and maintain communication with the parent regarding progress toward completion of the Extended Diploma.
4. The IEP Team will monitor the modified course of study for the student. For those students working on achieving an Extended Diploma, the modifications will be detailed within the IEP. Any student in the Extended Diploma Program does have the right to petition to re-enter the Standard Diploma Program. In the case of a student working towards an Extended Diploma, a careful projection of the effort and time commitment necessary to meet credit requirements in Standard Diploma courses will be completed. Such a change in the graduate's plan could extend the school experience by one or more school years. This is due to the fact students would have to repeat those courses in which a modified grade was earned. Students can work on completion of an Extended Diploma through the end of the school year in which they turn twenty-one (21); however, modified placement sites may be required for this work after the age of eighteen (18). Accordingly, care should be taken to recommend students for an Extended Diploma only when a very clear need for such an adjusted program is documented.

ELIGIBILITY

A student will be considered a candidate for the Extended Diploma Program if he/she meets one or more of the following eligibility criteria:

A documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers inherent in the student

--OR--

A documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement

--OR--

A change in the student's ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight

The IEP Team may consider a student for the Extended Diploma Program as early as late elementary school and as late as the senior year in high school.

EXTENDED DIPLOMA AGREEMENT

We have reviewed and understand the graduation requirements for Oregon's class of _____. After discussing all options, we the undersigned have agreed that the educational program which best meets _____'s needs will result in pursuing an Extended Diploma. We understand that an Extended Diploma will not meet all the requirements for a Standard High School Diploma.

The extended diploma will include courses in the following areas:

12 required credits

- English – 2
- Mathematics – 2
- Science – 2
- History, Geography, Economics or Civics – 3
- Health – 1
- Physical Education – 1
- Arts or Second Language – 1

No more than 6 credits may be earned in a self-contained special education classroom.

This diploma will be awarded after completion of 12 units of credits, as outlined in _____'s Individual Education Program.

The student or parent of a minor may, at any time, petition for a return to a Standard Diploma Program. We understand that such a change may require that the student may access school services beyond the usual four years to earn the credit for a Standard Diploma or up to/or through the end of the school year in which the student turns twenty-one (21) years old.

(Parent)

(Student)

(Teacher)

(Administrator)

(Case Manager)

(Counselor)

**EXTENDED DIPLOMA PROGRAM
Parent Permission**

I give permission for _____ to be in the Extended Diploma program. In signing this permission I understand that the following requirements need to be met for graduation:

12 required credits

- English – 2
- Mathematics – 2
- Science – 2
- History, Geography, Economics or Civics – 3
- Health – 1
- Physical Education – 1
- Arts or Second Language – 1

No more than 6 credits may be earned in a self-contained special education classroom.

(Parent)

(Date)

(Student)

(Date)

CREDIT CHECKLIST FOR EXTENDED DIPLOMA

Student _____

Birth Date _____

Date Initiated _____

Credits Required: 12

ENGLISH (4 semesters --- 2 credits)

MATHEMATICS (4 semesters --- 2 credits)

SCIENCE (4 semesters --- 2 credits)

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMICS OR CIVICS (6 semesters --- 3 credits)

HEALTH EDUCATION (2 semesters --- 1 credit)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (2 semesters --- 1 credit)

ARTS OR SECOND LANGUAGE (2 semesters --- 1 credit)

EXTENDED DIPLOMA=12 credits

Certificate of Achievement Program

A Certificate of Achievement may be awarded to students who do not satisfy the requirements for a Standard Diploma, Modified Diploma or an Extended Diploma.

The student's KCSD IEP Team will establish individualized criteria based on student needs for course content, credit requirements and demonstration of personalized skills essential for graduation from High School with a Certificate of Achievement.

Oregon students who receive a Certificate of Achievement are not eligible to apply for federal financial aid. This does not impact a student's ability to apply for state aid, private grants, or scholarships.

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Parent Permission

I give permission for _____ to be in the Certificate of Achievement program. In signing this permission I understand that the requirements for graduation will be developed by the IEP Team based on my child's post secondary goals.

(Parent)

(Date)

(Student)

(Date)

General Education Development (GED) Program

A high school diploma remains the primary ticket to many entry-level jobs, and is also a prerequisite for promotions, occupational training, and postsecondary education. In an ideal society, everyone would graduate from high school, although that is not a reality today. GED testing provides a nationally recognized opportunity to earn a high school-equivalency credential.

A General Educational Development (GED) Credential is awarded to persons who meet the passing score as determined by state requirements.

The Test is primarily computer-based and is made up of four test subjects: Reasoning Through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Science, and Social Studies. The test includes four written responses that assess the test taker's thinking and writing skills, known as "constructed response items."

Under federal guidelines, students who earn a General Educational Development (GED) Certificate do have the option to apply for federal student aid to assist with their college tuition.

ELIGIBILITY

A student will be considered a candidate for the General Educational Development Program if he/she meets one or more of the following eligibility criteria:

- Student has not been enrolled in public school for one year
- Student is not enrolled in public school for medical reasons
- Student is a Custodial Parent
- Student is one year (7 credits) behind their graduating class with unsuccessful attempts at public school and graduation is not feasible in the opinion of their school principal.

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (GED) REQUIREMENTS

The 2014 GED Test is fully aligned to leading college and career readiness content standards, measuring both high school equivalency and college readiness. Test scores for each test subject range from 100 to 200. Test takers must earn a minimum score of 145 on each test subject to pass and earn the high school equivalency credential.

The 2014 GED Test has an additional passing level for those that score 170 or higher, The GED Score with Honors. This score indicates college and career readiness.

GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (GED) REFERRAL

When a student is being considered for referral to the General Educational Development Program, a conference with the student and the parent or legal guardian must be held where the following items are to be considered;

1. Student's credits earned toward a Regular High School Diploma
2. Student's current grades if applicable
3. Student's current disability status if applicable
4. Results of standardized assessments
5. Teacher evaluations
6. Counselor appraisal if applicable
7. Student's immediate plans
8. Student's short-range and career goals
9. Any other relevant information

DEFINITIONS

1. Standard Diploma: High school completer who meets state endorsed graduation requirements. This marks the end of compulsory education.
2. Alternative Certificate: High school completer certification that neither meets Modified Diploma requirements nor the Standard Diploma requirements. Certificate of Achievement recognizes student's emphasis in 9-12 education.
3. Case Manager: For a student with an IEP this will be the IEP teacher of record. For a non-special education student this will be a school counselor or School Team member as assigned by the Team.
4. IDEA: Individual with Disabilities Education Act.
5. 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 accommodations.
6. Instructional Barriers: Can include physical, cognitive or an emotional barrier that impairs a student's ability over time to maintain grade level achievement.
7. School Team: Should consist of Parent, Student, Teacher and Administrator.
8. IEP: Individual Education Plan designed for students with one or more educational handicaps.
9. Near Future: For purposes of student goal setting, this means within the next 1 to 5 years. Not a prediction of a student's future.
10. PEP: A written Personal Education Plan for completing the Modified Diploma or Alternative Certificate.

11. Modified Course: Any educational course that has been systematically changed or altered to be used only after all reasonable adjusted instructional strategies (e.g. accommodations, remediation) have been implemented.
12. Education Profile: Student generated survey of skills and interests.
13. Essential Skills: The essential skills are process skills that cross academic disciplines and are embedded in the content standards. The skills are not content specific and can be applied in a variety of courses, subjects, and settings.
14. Honors Diploma: A more rigorous version of the Standard Diploma that emphasizes university admission and readiness.