

House Bill 2606

Sponsored by Representatives KRUMMEL, BUCKLEY; Representatives DALLUM, FLORES, G SMITH, WHISNANT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs school districts to award high school diploma to students who have satisfied graduation requirements in less than four years. Allows students who have satisfied requirements for current grade level to advance to next grade level.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to education; creating new provisions; amending ORS 329.451, 339.030, 339.505 and 345.505
3 and section 3, chapter 827, Oregon Laws 2005; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 329.451 is amended to read:

6 329.451. (1) In order to receive a high school diploma from a school district, a student must meet
7 the requirements established by the State Board of Education and, while in grades 9 through 12,
8 must complete:

9 (a) At least 24 [*credit hours*] **credits**, as defined by rule of the board;

10 (b) Three [*years*] **credits** of mathematics; and

11 (c) Four [*years*] **credits** of English.

12 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a school district may award a diploma to a
13 student who does not [*meet*] **satisfy** the requirements of subsection (1)(b) or (c) of this section if the
14 student:

15 (a) Has met or exceeded the academic content standards for mathematics or English established
16 by the board; or

17 (b) Displays proficiency in mathematics or English at a level established by the board.

18 (3) **A student may satisfy the requirements of subsection (1) of this section in less than**
19 **four years. If a student satisfies the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, a school**
20 **district shall award a diploma to the student.**

21 (4) **A student who has satisfied the requirements for the student's current grade level**
22 **may advance to the next grade level.**

23 **SECTION 2.** Section 3, chapter 827, Oregon Laws 2005, provides:

24 **Sec. 3.** (1) The requirements of [*section 1 of this 2005 Act*] **ORS 329.451 (1) and (2)** apply to
25 students who receive a high school diploma from a school district on or after July 1, 2009.

26 (2) **ORS 329.451 (3) applies to students who satisfy the requirements for a high school**
27 **diploma on or after the effective date of this 2007 Act.**

28 (3) **ORS 329.451 (4) first applies to the 2007-2008 school year.**

29 **SECTION 3.** ORS 339.030 is amended to read:

30 339.030. (1) In the following cases, children [*shall*] **may** not be required to attend public full-time

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 schools:

2 (a) Children being taught in a private or parochial school in the courses of study usually taught
 3 in grades 1 through 12 in the public schools and in attendance for a period equivalent to that re-
 4 quired of children attending public schools in the 1994-1995 school year.

5 (b) Children proving to the satisfaction of the district school board that they have acquired
 6 equivalent knowledge to that acquired in the courses of study taught in grades 1 through 12 in the
 7 public schools.

8 **(c) Children who have received a high school diploma.**

9 [(c)] (d) Children being taught for a period equivalent to that required of children attending
 10 public schools by a private teacher the courses of study usually taught in grades 1 through 12 in
 11 the public school.

12 [(d)] (e) Children being educated in the children’s home by a parent or legal guardian.

13 [(e)] (f) Children excluded from attendance as provided by law.

14 (2) The State Board of Education by rule shall establish procedures whereby, on a semiannual
 15 basis, an exemption from compulsory attendance may be granted to the parent or legal guardian of
 16 any child 16 or 17 years of age who is lawfully employed full-time, lawfully employed part-time and
 17 enrolled in school, a community college or an alternative education program as defined in ORS
 18 336.615. An exemption also may be granted to any child who is an emancipated minor or who has
 19 initiated the procedure for emancipation under ORS 419B.550 to 419B.558.

20 **SECTION 4.** ORS 339.505 is amended to read:

21 339.505. (1) For purposes of the student accounting system required by ORS 339.515, the follow-
 22 ing definitions shall be used:

23 (a) “Graduate” means an individual who has:

- 24 (A) Not reached 21 years of age or whose 21st birthday occurs during the current school year;
- 25 (B) Met all state requirements and local requirements for attendance, competence and units of
 26 credit for high school; and

27 (C) Received one of the following:

- 28 (i) A high school diploma issued by a school district.
- 29 (ii) An adult high school diploma issued by an authorized community college.
- 30 (iii) A modified high school diploma based on the successful completion of an individual educa-
 31 tion plan.

32 (b) “School dropout” means an individual who:

- 33 (A) Has enrolled for the current school year, or was enrolled in the previous school year and
 34 did not attend during the current school year;
- 35 (B) Is not a high school graduate;
- 36 (C) Has not received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate; and
- 37 (D) Has withdrawn from school.

38 (c) “School dropout” does not include a student described by at least one of the following:

- 39 (A) A student who has transferred to another educational system or institution that leads to
 40 graduation and the school district has received a written request for the transfer of the student’s
 41 records or transcripts.
- 42 (B) A student who is deceased.
- 43 (C) A student who is participating in home instruction paid for by the district.
- 44 (D) A student who is being taught by a private teacher, parent or legal guardian pursuant to
 45 ORS 339.030 [(1)(c) or (d)] **(1)(d) or (e).**

1 (E) A student who is participating in a Department of Education approved public or private
2 education program, an alternative education program as defined in ORS 336.615 or a hospital edu-
3 cation program, or is residing in a Department of Human Services facility.

4 (F) A student who is temporarily residing in a shelter care program certified by the Oregon
5 Youth Authority or the Department of Human Services or in a juvenile detention facility.

6 (G) A student who is enrolled in a foreign exchange program.

7 (H) A student who is temporarily absent from school because of suspension, a family emergency,
8 or severe health or medical problems that prohibit the student from attending school.

9 (I) A student who has received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate.

10 (2) The State Board of Education shall prescribe by rule when an unexplained absence becomes
11 withdrawal, when a student is considered enrolled in school, acceptable alternative education pro-
12 grams under ORS 336.615 to 336.665 and the standards for excused absences for purposes of ORS
13 339.065 for family emergencies and health and medical problems.

14 **SECTION 5.** ORS 345.505 is amended to read:

15 345.505. As used in ORS 345.505 to 345.575 unless the context requires otherwise:

16 (1) "Educational services" means instructional programs but does not include programs limited
17 solely to dancing, drama, music, religious or athletic instruction.

18 (2) "Private school" means a private elementary or secondary school operated by a person or
19 by a private agency except as provided in ORS 339.030 [(1)(c) or (d)] (1)(d) or (e), offering education
20 in prekindergarten, kindergarten, or grades 1 through 12 or any part thereof.

21 **SECTION 6. The amendments to ORS 339.030, 339.505 and 345.505 by sections 3 to 5 of this**
22 **2007 Act first apply to the 2007-2008 school year.**

23 **SECTION 7. This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
24 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect**
25 **July 1, 2007.**

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