



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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HB 2193: Extended Diplomas
House Education Committee
Cindy Hunt
Feb. 8, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Gelser and members of the House Education Committee. For the record, I am Cindy Hunt speaking on behalf of the Oregon Education Department. With me today is Sarah Drinkwater, the Acting Assistant Superintendent for our Special Education unit. We are here today to provide information about HB 2193. HB 2193 makes a minor change regarding who is eligible to receive extended diplomas.

Background

Oregon students have four types of awards available to them to signify that they have achieved high standards and are eligible for graduation: a standard diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma and an alternative certificate. Each year, more than 46,000 students will earn one of these awards.

HB 2193 addresses requirements for one of these awards, the extended diploma. Currently, school districts may award extended diplomas to:

- Students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high school diploma with reasonable modifications and accommodations and
- Students who have earned 12 credits in grades 9 through 12 and
 - Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers or
 - Have a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement

AND

- Students have participated in an alternate assessment beginning no later than grade six and lasting for two or more assessment cycles or
- Have a serious illness or injury that occurs after grade eight, that changes the student's ability to participate in grade level activities and that results in the student participating in alternative assessments.

The extended diploma was first made available to students as a statewide option during the 2009-10 school year. Per federal law, states may adopt alternate achievement standards for children with the most significant cognitive disabilities. In 2010-11, 7 Oregon students were awarded an extended diploma within four years of entering high school. In 2012-13, 52 Oregon students were awarded an extended diploma within four years of entering high school.

Issue

Some otherwise eligible students could not earn an extended diploma because they had not participated in an alternative assessment for two assessment cycles.

ROB SAXTON
Acting Deputy Superintendent of Public
Instruction



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Legislation

HB 2193 removes the requirement that students must participate in an alternative assessment for two assessment cycles. The bill will help us move toward our state's goal of having 100 percent of students earning at least a high school diploma. The bill opens up the extended diploma option to all students and not just those with disabilities as defined by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act. While we expect the changes in the bill to apply to a small number of students, for those students who are assisted by the bill to earn an extended diploma the impact will be significant.

Fiscal Impact

The bill has a minimal fiscal impact on the Department of Education.

We are happy to answer any questions you might have.