

House Bill 2691

Sponsored by Representative EVANS; Representatives BARNHART, NOSSE (Pre-session filed.)

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**.

Requires student to demonstrate proficiency in civics in order to receive high school diploma.
Takes effect January 1, 2021.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to civics education; creating new provisions; amending ORS 329.451; and prescribing an
3 effective date.

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)(a) At or before grade 12, a school district or public charter school shall award a high
7 school diploma to a student who completes the requirements established by subsection (2) of this
8 section.

9 (b) A school district or public charter school shall award a modified diploma to a student who
10 satisfies the requirements established by subsection (7) of this section, an extended diploma to a
11 student who satisfies the requirements established by subsection (8) of this section or an alternative
12 certificate to a student who satisfies the requirements established by subsection (9) of this section.

13 (c) A school district or public charter school may not deny a student who has the documented
14 history described in subsection (7)(b) or (8)(b) of this section the opportunity to pursue a diploma
15 with more stringent requirements than a modified diploma or an extended diploma for the sole rea-
16 son that the student has the documented history.

17 (d) A school district or public charter school may award a modified diploma or extended diploma
18 to a student only upon receiving consent as provided by subsection (6) of this section.

19 (2)(a) In order to receive a high school diploma from a school district or public charter school,
20 a student must:

21 **(A)** Satisfy the requirements established by the State Board of Education [*and*];

22 **(B)** Satisfy the requirements established by the school district or public charter school
23 [*and*,];

24 **(C)** Demonstrate proficiency in civics by a method identified by the school district, which
25 may include successful completion of a course in civics, a passing grade on a civics test se-
26 lected by the school district or a passing grade on a civics test developed by the Department
27 of Education and the Secretary of State; and

28 **(D)** While in grades 9 through 12, [*must*] complete at least:

29 [(A)] **(i)** Twenty-four total credits;

30 [(B)] **(ii)** Three credits of mathematics; and

31 [(C)] **(iii)** Four credits of English.

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 (b) If a school district or public charter school requires a student to complete more than 24 total
 2 credits, as provided by paragraph [(a)(A)] (a)(D)(i) of this subsection, the school district or public
 3 charter school may [only] require the student to complete additional credits **only** for:

4 (A) Subjects for which the State Board of Education has established academic content standards
 5 under ORS 329.045;

6 (B) Courses provided as part of a career and technical education program; or

7 (C) Courses that provide, or qualify to provide, credit at post-secondary institutions of education.

8 (3) A student providing work samples to demonstrate proficiency in Essential Learning Skills
 9 as may be required under subsection (2) of this section must be allowed to use accommodations de-
 10 scribed in the student's individualized education program or the student's plan developed in ac-
 11 cordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1978, 29 U.S.C. 794. As used in this
 12 subsection, the term "accommodations":

13 (a) Includes, but is not limited to:

14 (A) Additional time to demonstrate proficiency.

15 (B) The ability to demonstrate proficiency in an alternative location that is secure and
 16 proctored.

17 (C) The use of text-to-speech or speech-to-text technology or other assistive technology.

18 (b) Does not include modifications that lower the proficiency standards or that are used solely
 19 to earn modified credit.

20 (4) A student may satisfy the requirements of subsection (2) of this section in less than four
 21 years. If a student satisfies the requirements of subsection (2) of this section and a school district
 22 or public charter school has received consent as provided by subsection (6) of this section, the
 23 school district or public charter school shall award a high school diploma to the student.

24 (5) If a school district or public charter school has received consent as provided by subsection
 25 (6) of this section, the school district or public charter school may advance the student to the next
 26 grade level if the student has satisfied the requirements for the student's current grade level.

27 (6)(a) For the purpose of receiving consent as provided by subsections (1)(d), (4) and (5) of this
 28 section, consent shall be provided by:

29 (A) The parent or guardian of the student, if the student:

30 (i) Is under 18 years of age and is not emancipated pursuant to ORS 419B.550 to 419B.558; or

31 (ii) Has been determined not to have the ability to give informed consent regarding the student's
 32 education pursuant to a protective proceeding under ORS chapter 125; or

33 (B) The student, if the student is 18 years of age or older or is emancipated pursuant to ORS
 34 419B.550 to 419B.558.

35 (b) For the purpose of awarding a modified diploma or extended diploma as provided by sub-
 36 section (1)(d) of this section or of awarding a high school diploma as provided by subsection (4) of
 37 this section, consent must be received during the school year for which the diploma will be awarded.

38 (7) A school district or public charter school shall award a modified diploma only to students
 39 who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high
 40 school diploma with reasonable modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for a modified di-
 41 ploma, a student must:

42 (a) Satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma established by the State Board of Education;
 43 and

44 (b) Have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to sig-
 45 nificant learning and instructional barriers or have a documented history of a medical condition that

1 creates a barrier to achievement.

2 (8) A school district or public charter school shall award an extended diploma only to students
 3 who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high
 4 school diploma with reasonable modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for an extended
 5 diploma, a student must:

6 (a) While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 12 credits, which may not
 7 include more than six credits earned in a self-contained special education classroom and shall in-
 8 clude:

- 9 (A) Two credits of mathematics;
- 10 (B) Two credits of English;
- 11 (C) Two credits of science;
- 12 (D) Three credits of history, geography, economics or civics;
- 13 (E) One credit of health;
- 14 (F) One credit of physical education; and
- 15 (G) One credit of the arts or a world language; and

16 (b) Have a documented history of:

17 (A) An inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instruc-
 18 tional barriers;

19 (B) A medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement; or

20 (C) A change in the student's ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a se-
 21 rious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight.

22 (9) A school district or public charter school shall award an alternative certificate to a student
 23 who does not satisfy the requirements for a high school diploma, a modified diploma or an extended
 24 diploma if the student meets requirements established by the board of the school district or public
 25 charter school.

26 (10) A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements of subsection (7), (8) or (9)
 27 of this section by the later of:

28 (a) Four years after starting grade nine; or

29 (b) The student reaching the age of 21 years, if the student is entitled to a public education until
 30 the age of 21 years under state or federal law.

31 (11)(a) A student may satisfy the requirements described in subsection (7), (8) or (9) of this sec-
 32 tion in less than four years if consent is provided in the manner described in subsection (6)(a) of this
 33 section.

34 (b) The consent provided under this subsection must be written and must clearly state that the
 35 parent, guardian or student is waiving the time allowed under subsection (10) of this section. A
 36 consent may not be used to allow a student to satisfy the requirements of subsection (7), (8) or (9)
 37 of this section in less than three years.

38 (c) A copy of all consents provided under this subsection for students in a school district must
 39 be forwarded to the district superintendent.

40 (d) Each school district must provide to the Superintendent of Public Instruction information
 41 about the number of consents provided during a school year.

42 (12)(a) A student who receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative cer-
 43 tificate shall:

44 (A) Have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the class of the
 45 student; and

1 (B) Have access to instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services
2 that are designed to:

3 (i) Meet the unique needs of the student; and

4 (ii) When added together, provide a total number of hours of instruction and services to the
5 student that equals at least the total number of instructional hours that is required to be provided
6 to students who are attending a public high school.

7 (b)(A) The number of instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other ser-
8 vices that are appropriate for a student shall be determined by the student's individualized education
9 program team. Based on the student's needs and performance level, the student's individualized ed-
10 ucation program team may decide that the student will not access the total number of hours of in-
11 struction and services to which the student has access under paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.

12 (B) A school district may not unilaterally decrease the total number of hours of instruction and
13 services to which the student has access under paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection, regardless of the
14 age of the student.

15 (c) If a student's individualized education program team decides that the student will not access
16 the total number of hours of instruction and services to which the student has access under para-
17 graph (a)(B) of this subsection, the school district shall annually:

18 (A) Provide the following information in writing to the parent or guardian of the student:

19 (i) The school district's duty to comply with the requirements of paragraph (a)(B) of this sub-
20 section; and

21 (ii) The prohibition against a school district's unilaterally decreasing the total number of hours
22 of instruction and services to which the student has access.

23 (B) Obtain a signed acknowledgment from the parent or guardian of the student that the parent
24 or guardian received the information described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

25 (C) Include in the individualized education program for the student a written statement that
26 explains the reasons the student is not accessing the total number of hours of instruction and ser-
27 vices to which the student has access under paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.

28 (d) For purposes of paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection, transition services and other services
29 designed to meet the unique needs of the student may be provided to the student through an inter-
30 agency agreement entered into by the school district if the individualized education program devel-
31 oped for the student indicates that the services may be provided by another agency. A school
32 district that enters into an interagency agreement as allowed under this paragraph retains the re-
33 sponsibility for ensuring that the student has access to the number of service hours required to be
34 provided to the student under this subsection. An agency is not required to change any eligibility
35 criteria or enrollment standards prior to entering into an interagency agreement as provided by this
36 paragraph.

37 (13) A school district or public charter school shall:

38 (a) Ensure that students have on-site access to the appropriate resources to achieve a high
39 school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate at each high
40 school in the school district or at the public charter school.

41 (b) Provide literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

42 (c) Annually provide, to the parents or guardians of a student who has the documented history
43 described in subsection (8)(b) of this section, information about the availability of a modified di-
44 ploma, an extended diploma and an alternative certificate and the requirements for the diplomas and
45 certificate:

1 (A) Beginning in grade five; or

2 (B) Beginning after a documented history described in subsection (8)(b) of this section has been
3 established.

4 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 329.451 by section 1 of this 2017 Act first apply to**
5 **high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2021.**

6 **SECTION 3. This 2017 Act takes effect on January 1, 2021.**

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