



**Senate Bill 1522 A—Modified Diploma
House Committee on Education
February 26, 2018**

Background

Last session the legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 20, which addressed Modified Diplomas. SB 20 helped the department comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and aided the department to clarify for the field the ESSA requirements and the types of diplomas that would count for graduation.

After SB 20 was passed ODE gained additional clarity on ESSA requirements and heard from many parents, districts, teachers and administrators about concerns they had in relation to the Modified Diploma. The primary concern was that students who received Modified Diplomas would no longer be eligible to receive special education services until age 21. As a result, ODE went through a collaborative process with partners such as OSBA, COSA, OEA and legislative staff to find a solution.

Additionally, the State Board of Education adopted temporary rules to ensure students who had earned and been conferred a Modified Diploma would continue to be eligible for services until July 1, 2018. This gave the Department and partners time to come to the legislature with a permanent solution. That solution is SB 1522 A .

Senate Bill 1522 A

Senate Bill 1522 A returns the rights and privileges of students who receive a Modified Diploma to continue to be eligible for special education services until age 21 or until they receive a Standard Diploma.

ODE encourages the passage of Senate Bill 1522 A. The now amended bill also resolves issues in the following two areas:

1. The Youth Corrections Program (YCEP) provides a high school education to all eligible youth incarcerated in Oregon. SB 20 changed ORS 327.026(2) to include students who received Modified Diplomas to the list of youths for whom YCEP programs could not receive money from the State School Fund. The amended bill would allow YCEP to

collect funding for YCEP students who have received Modified Diplomas and return for services—as was the case before SB 20.

- The amended bill does not subtract money from the State School Fund as it would not adjust the calculation of how YCEP is funded under ORS 327.026(2).
 - There is no increase to Average Daily Membership. Currently under the State Board of Education adopted rules, students who receive Modified Diplomas prior to July 1, 2018, continue to qualify for special education services until July 1, 2018. The amended bill remove modified diplomas from the YCEP program funding prohibitions and allows modified diploma recipients to continue to receive services, just as they would have before SB 20.
2. The amended bill also allows for a student who received a Modified Diploma and returned to school for special education services to continue to be eligible to participate in the Expanded Options Program (EOP) to receive college credit. EOP was created in 2005 under Senate Bill 300 with the goal to provide students with additional options to continue or complete their education, and to allow them to earn concurrent high school and college credits through public community colleges and universities in the state of Oregon. SB 20 made this opportunity unavailable to students receiving Modified Diplomas.

The goal of SB 1522 A is to provide every student the opportunity to get a quality education in the State of Oregon. It aligns with ODE’s equity values and it aligns with the 40-40-20 educational goal. ODE supports SB 1522 A and we ask the House Committee on Education pass SB 1522 A.

We also want to thank all the partners who worked on this legislation, specifically Senator Gelser who led the effort.