

# House Bill 3068

Sponsored by Representative OWENS, Senators FINDLEY, GELSER BLOUIN; Representatives HIEB, LEVY B, LIVELY, MORGAN, SCHARF, WRIGHT, Senator WEBER (at the request of Cascade Policy Institute)

## 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**.

Provides that high school student in grade 11 or 12 may be awarded high school diploma if student has received certificate for passing approved high school equivalency test such as General Educational Development (GED) test and meets other conditions.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to high school diplomas; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 339.505.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "eligible student" means a high school student:**

5 (a) **Who is in grade 11 or 12;**

6 (b) **Who has received a certificate for passing an approved high school equivalency test**  
7 **such as the General Educational Development (GED) test;**

8 (c) **Who is 16 years of age or older as of the date of taking the high school equivalency**  
9 **test; and**

10 (d) **For whom a school district or public charter school has received consent provided by:**

11 (A) **The parent or guardian of the student, if the student is under 18 years of age and is**  
12 **not emancipated pursuant to ORS 419B.550 to 419B.558; or**

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

15 (2) **Notwithstanding ORS 329.451, at or before grade 12, a school district or public charter**  
16 **school shall award a high school diploma to an eligible student.**

17 (3) **The student's education record shall indicate that a high school diploma was awarded.**

18 **SECTION 2. ORS 339.505 is amended to read:**

19 339.505. (1) For purposes of the student accounting system required by ORS 339.515, the follow-  
20 ing definitions shall be used:

21 (a) "Graduate" means an individual who has:

22 (A) Not reached 21 years of age or whose 21st birthday occurs during the current school year;

23 *[(B) Met all state requirements and local requirements for attendance, competence and units of*  
24 *credit for high school; and]*

25 *[(C)]* (B) Received one of the following:

26 (i) A high school diploma issued by a school district or a public charter school.

27 (ii) A high school diploma issued by an authorized community college.

28 (iii) A modified diploma issued by a school district or a public charter school.

29 (iv) An extended diploma issued by a school district or a public charter school.

30 (v) An alternative certificate issued by a school district or a public charter school[.]; **and**

**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       **(C) Met all state requirements and local requirements for attendance, competence and**  
2 **units of credit for high school. This subparagraph does not apply to individuals who received**  
3 **a high school diploma pursuant to section 1 of this 2023 Act.**

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

5       (A) Has enrolled for the current school year, or was enrolled in the previous school year and  
6 did not attend during the current school year;

7       (B) Is not a high school graduate;

8       (C) Has not received a certificate for passing an approved high school equivalency test such as  
9 the General Educational Development (GED) test; and

10       (D) Has withdrawn from school.

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

12       (A) A student who has transferred to another educational system or institution that leads to  
13 graduation and the school district has received a written request for the transfer of the student’s  
14 records or transcripts.

15       (B) A student who is deceased.

16       (C) A student who is participating in home instruction paid for by the district.

17       (D) A student who is being taught by a private teacher, parent or legal guardian pursuant to  
18 ORS 339.030 (1)(d) or (e).

19       (E) A student who is participating in a Department of Education approved public or private  
20 education program, an alternative education program as defined in ORS 336.615 or a hospital edu-  
21 cation program, or is residing in a Department of Human Services or an Oregon Health Authority  
22 facility.

23       (F) A student who is temporarily residing in a shelter care program certified by the Oregon  
24 Youth Authority or in a juvenile detention facility.

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

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

28       (I) A student who has received a certificate for passing an approved high school equivalency test  
29 such as the General Educational Development (GED) test.

30       (2) The State Board of Education shall prescribe by rule when an unexplained absence becomes  
31 withdrawal, when a student is considered enrolled in school, acceptable alternative education pro-  
32 grams under ORS 336.615 to 336.665 and the standards for excused absences for purposes of ORS  
33 339.065 for family emergencies and health and medical problems.

34       **SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2023 Act and the amendments to ORS 339.505 by section 2**  
35 **of this 2023 Act first apply to the 2024-2025 school year.**

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