



**REPRESENTATIVE MARK OWENS  
HOUSE DISTRICT 60**

## High school diploma options<sup>1</sup>

Currently, Oregon has three state-defined K-12 diplomas: 1) Oregon Diploma; 2) Modified Oregon Diploma; and 3) Extended Oregon Diploma. The state also issues an Alternative Certificate. Both the Oregon Diploma and the Modified Oregon Diploma count towards the official graduation rate calculations.<sup>4</sup>

According to ORS 329.451, the Modified and Extended Oregon Diplomas<sup>5</sup> are only offered 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.” To be eligible to pursue a Modified Oregon Diploma, a student must, “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” (ORS 329.451(7)(b)).

To be eligible to pursue an Extended Oregon Diploma, a student must, “have a documented history of: (A) an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; (B) a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement; or (C) a change in the student’s ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight” (ORS 329.451(8)(b)).

The Alternative Certificate is not a diploma but rather a high school completion document. It may be earned by a student who does not satisfy the requirements for the Oregon Diploma, Modified Oregon Diploma or Extended Oregon Diploma. To be eligible for an Alternative Certificate, a student must have met the criteria requirements as specified in school district board policies. **Students who earn an Alternative Certificate or a Graduation Equivalency Diploma (GED) are not counted as graduates in Oregon’s cohort graduation rates but are instead considered completers.**

## Oregon graduation rates by diploma type

As mentioned above, there has been a steady increase in the percentage of students who are being awarded Modified Oregon Diplomas, which accounts for some of the increase in graduation rates over the past decade. Figure 12 shows that Modified Oregon Diploma rates have effectively doubled since 2009. As of 2020, 3.8% of Oregon students were awarded Modified Oregon Diplomas, compared to less than 2% in years before the credential was counted as a graduation and these diploma holders became eligible for federal financial aid upon enrollment in postsecondary programs. In the 2013–14 school year, approximately 750 students earned Modified Oregon Diplomas. That number has increased by about 150 students per year and was close to 1,750 students in 2020. A very low percentage of Oregon students are awarded Extended Oregon Diplomas (0.2%) or Alternative Certificates (0.5%).

---

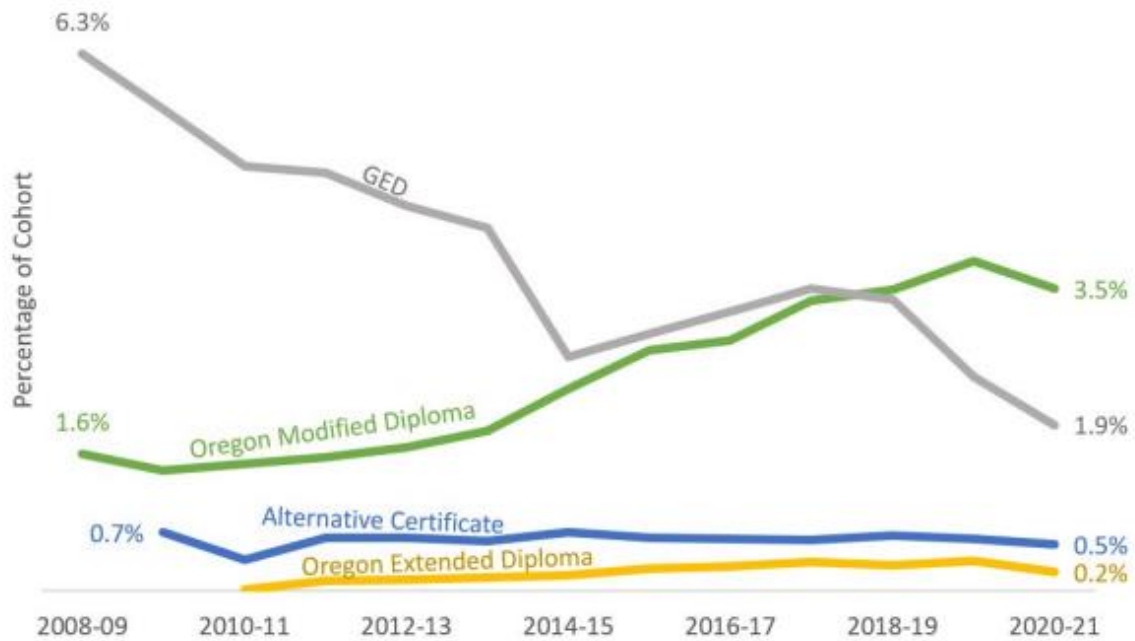
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/rules-and-policies/Documents/SB744%20Report%20Final.pdf>



REPRESENTATIVE MARK OWENS  
HOUSE DISTRICT 60

Figure 12

Percentages of Students Awarded a Modified Oregon Diploma/Extended Oregon Diploma or Alternative Certificate, or a GED (Four-Year Rates)



### Postsecondary Profile by Diploma Type

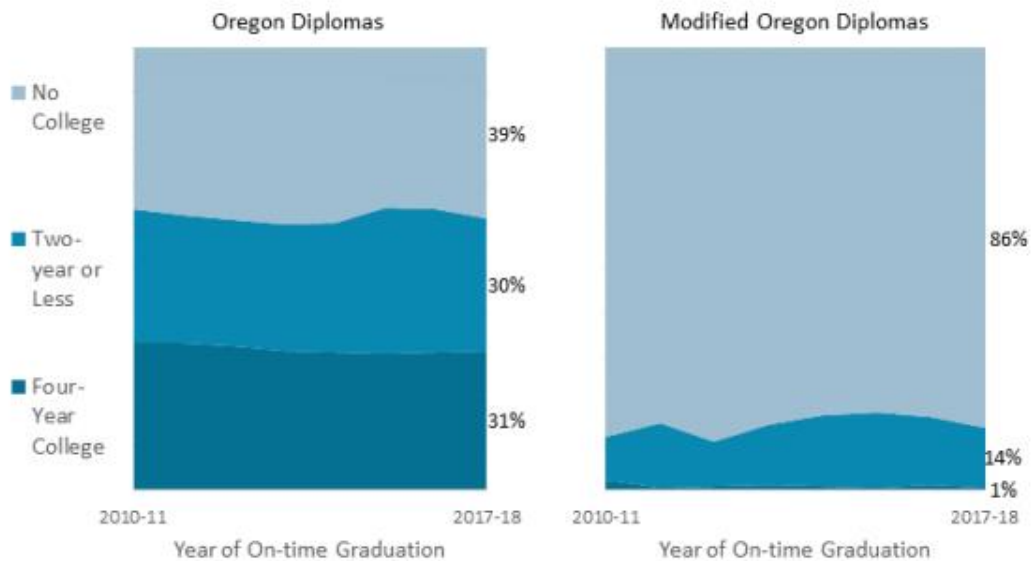
The type of diploma that a student is awarded is associated with differences in student postsecondary profiles. Colleges and universities report that access to postsecondary programs is not contingent on the diploma type (Modified, or Regular) but rather the courses that students take. Modified Diplomas have different course requirements and thus these students are less likely to have taken the courses required for admission to colleges and universities. Figure 17 shows the rates at which students who are awarded an Oregon Diploma engage in postsecondary opportunities within a year of graduation. **It should be noted that the gray areas may include extended diplomas, adult basic education diplomas, and GED completion, or other modes that are not counted in Oregon's official graduation rate.** Approximately 31% of Oregon students who are awarded an Oregon Diploma go on to a four-year college, while 30% attend two-year programs or other postsecondary options. Of the students who are awarded an Oregon diploma, 39% do not take any college courses within one year after graduation.



REPRESENTATIVE MARK OWENS  
HOUSE DISTRICT 60

Figure 17

*Postsecondary Profile for Students Who Are Awarded Oregon or Modified Diplomas, within One Year of On-Time Graduation*



## APPENDIX J: A VISION FOR A FUTURE-READY GRADUATE

Oregon educational systems need adaptive changes to move the recommendations of this report to reality if they are adopted. It will take time and require investment of human resources, engagement, and planning. **These recommendations will require careful execution to ensure that they are not implemented inequitably.**

*Additional support for five-year cohort.* Oregon's emphasis on graduation rates can result in practices that do not protect student interests. For example, students who need more than four years to graduate may not feel supported given that the graduation rate is based on completion in four years (by federal definition) and excludes other forms of high school attainment, such as the GED. ODE could do more to communicate about the value of fifth-year cohort calculations for educational equity.

In summary, Oregon must endeavor to define and publish system indicators that hold education accountable for creating the conditions in which students can graduate.



**REPRESENTATIVE MARK OWENS  
HOUSE DISTRICT 60**

Cohort Graduation Rate<sup>2</sup>

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
District Name	Student Group	Adjusted Cohort	Oregon Diploma Awarded	Participating in Post Graduate	Modified Diploma Awarded	Graduates	2021-22 Five-year Cohort Graduation	Adult High School Diploma	Extended Diploma	GED
State of Oregon	All Students	46189	36829	8	1845	38682	83.75	2	117	1144
State of Oregon	Male	23819	18198	6	1186	19390	81.41	1	77	682
State of Oregon	Female	22221	18534	2	653	19189	86.36	1	40	455
State of Oregon	American Indian	593	370	0	61	431	72.68	0	3	18
State of Oregon	Asian	1908	1766	0	30	1796	94.13	0	5	11
State of Oregon	Native Hawaiian	348	243	0	18	261	75.00	0	1	3
State of Oregon	Black/African American	1088	793	1	66	860	79.04	0	3	12
State of Oregon	Hispanic/Latino	10804	8252	2	493	8747	80.96	0	28	174
State of Oregon	Multi-Racial	2960	2352	1	90	2443	82.53	0	5	82
State of Oregon	White	28487	23053	4	1087	24144	84.75	2	72	843
State of Oregon	Underserved Racial	12833	9658	3	638	10299	80.25	0	35	207
State of Oregon	Economically Disadvantaged	30097	22752	6	1589	24347	80.90	1	100	794
State of Oregon	Students with Limited English Proficiency	6819	3196	2	1675	4873	71.46	0	114	157
State of Oregon	Former English Learners	6424	5447	1	150	5598	87.14	0	12	78
State of Oregon	English Learners	2499	1516	1	275	1792	71.71	0	11	11
State of Oregon	Never English Learners	37266	29866	6	1420	31292	83.97	2	94	1055
State of Oregon	Talented and Gifted	4170	3997	0	7	4004	96.02	0	0	66
State of Oregon	Migrant	1257	979	0	55	1034	82.26	0	4	11
State of Oregon	Homeless Students	3655	1990	1	253	2244	61.40	1	16	171
State of Oregon	Combined Disadvantaged	33240	24967	7	1834	26808	80.65	1	116	873
State of Oregon	CTE Participant	33805	29399	6	1357	30762	91.00	1	74	487
State of Oregon	CTE Concentrated	19472	17789	0	617	18406	94.53	0	38	159
State of Oregon	Foster Care	598	271	0	50	321	53.68	0	4	52

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Documents/CohortTrends21-22.pdf>



**REPRESENTATIVE MARK OWENS  
HOUSE DISTRICT 60**

Dropout/Pushout Rates in Oregon High Schools<sup>4</sup>

School Year	County	Student Group Code	Student Group	Fall Membership	Dropout/ Pushout Count	Dropout/ Pushout Rate	Institution Type
20212022	State Level	TOT	All Students	181946	7407	4.07	State
20212022	State Level	F	Female	87014	3001	3.45	State
20212022	State Level	M	Male	93876	4342	4.63	State
20212022	State Level	AM	American Indian/Alaska Native	2313	181	7.83	State
20212022	State Level	ASO	Asian	7448	101	1.36	State
20212022	State Level	BL	Black/African American	4148	218	5.26	State
20212022	State Level	HI	Hispanic/Latino	45184	2237	4.95	State
20212022	State Level	PAC	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1448	98	6.77	State
20212022	State Level	WH	White	109338	4025	3.68	State
20212022	State Level	MU	Multi-Racial	12067	547	4.53	State
20212022	State Level	USETH	Underserved Races/Ethnicities	53093	2734	5.15	State
20212022	State Level	ECD	Economically Disadvantaged	180198	6989	3.88	State
20212022	State Level	SWD	Students with Disabilities	27468	1518	5.53	State
20212022	State Level	FmrEL	Former English Learners	23486	848	3.61	State
20212022	State Level	LEP	English Learner	12306	850	6.91	State
20212022	State Level	TAG	Talented and Gifted	16412	88	0.54	State
20212022	State Level	Mgrnt	Migrant	4240	149	3.51	State
20212022	State Level	HMLSS	Homeless	7965	946	11.88	State
20212022	State Level	CDIS	Combined Disadvantaged	181174	7212	3.98	State
20212022	State Level	CTEPartic	CTE Participants	83109	2685	3.23	State
20212022	State Level	CTEConc	CTE Concentrators	23530	721	3.06	State
20212022	State Level	FC	Foster Care	1567	151	9.64	State
20212022	State Level	NonEL	Never English Learners	146154	5709	3.91	State

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Documents/dropout-pushout-tables-2021-2022.xlsx>