

Enrolled Senate Bill 222

Sponsored by Senator HASS, Representatives DEMBROW, READ, Senator BATES; Senators BEYER, STARR, STEINER HAYWARD, Representatives BENTZ, GELSER, JOHNSON (Presession filed.)

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to accelerated college credit programs; creating new provisions; amending ORS 329.451 and 341.450; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) **The Accelerated Learning Committee is established.**

(2) The committee consists of the following seven members:

(a) The Chief Education Officer.

(b) Six members appointed as follows:

(A) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the Senate.

(B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among members of the House of Representatives.

(C) The Governor shall appoint two members.

(3) The committee shall examine methods to encourage and enable students to obtain college credits while still in high school. The committee shall emphasize the alignment of funding, assessments and procedures between high schools and post-secondary institutions of higher education to encourage efficiencies and to make post-secondary education more affordable for families.

(4) A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(5) Official action by the committee requires the approval of a majority of the members of the committee.

(6) The committee shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

(7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appointment to become immediately effective.

(8) The committee shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the members of the committee.

(9) The committee may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the committee.

(10) The committee shall submit a report, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim legislative committees on education no later than October 1, 2014.

(11) The Oregon Education Investment Board shall provide staff support to the committee.

(12) Notwithstanding ORS 171.072, members of the committee who are members of the Legislative Assembly are not entitled to mileage expenses or a per diem and serve as volunteers on the committee. Other members of the committee are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the committee.

(13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist the committee in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the committee consider necessary to perform their duties.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2013 Act is repealed on the date of the convening of the 2015 regular session of the Legislative Assembly as specified in ORS 171.010.

SECTION 3. ORS 329.451 is amended to read:

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

(b) A school district or public charter school shall award a modified diploma to a student who satisfies the requirements established by subsection (6) of this section, an extended diploma to a student who satisfies the requirements established by subsection (7) of this section or an alternative certificate to a student who satisfies the requirements established by subsection (8) of this section.

(c) A school district or public charter school may not deny a student who has the documented history described in subsection (6)(b) or (7)(b) and (c) of this section the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements than a modified diploma or an extended diploma for the sole reason that the student has the documented history.

(d) A school district or public charter school may award a modified diploma or extended diploma to a student only upon receiving consent as provided by subsection (5) of this section.

(2)(a) In order to receive a high school diploma from a school district or public charter school, a student must satisfy the requirements established by the State Board of Education and the school district or public charter school and, while in grades 9 through 12, must complete at least:

[(a)] (A) Twenty-four total credits;

[(b)] (B) Three credits of mathematics; and

[(c)] (C) Four credits of English.

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

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

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

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

(3) A student may satisfy the requirements of subsection (2) of this section in less than four years. If a student satisfies the requirements of subsection (2) of this section and a school district or public charter school has received consent as provided by subsection (5) of this section, the school district or public charter school shall award a high school diploma to the student.

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

(5)(a) For the purpose of receiving consent as provided by subsections (1)(d), (3) and (4) of this section, consent shall be provided by:

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

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

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

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

(b) For the purpose of awarding a modified diploma or extended diploma as provided by subsection (1)(d) of this section or of awarding a high school diploma as provided by subsection (3) of this section, consent must be received during the school year for which the diploma will be awarded.

(6) A school district or public charter school shall award a modified diploma only 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 for a modified diploma, a student must:

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

(b) 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.

(7) A school district or public charter school shall award an extended diploma only 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 for an extended diploma, a student must:

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

(A) Two credits of mathematics;

(B) Two credits of English;

(C) Two credits of science;

(D) Three credits of history, geography, economics or civics;

(E) One credit of health;

(F) One credit of physical education; and

(G) One credit of the arts or a second language;

(b) 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

(c)(A) Participate in an alternate assessment beginning no later than grade six and lasting for two or more assessment cycles; or

(B) 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 alternate assessments.

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

(9) A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements of subsection (6), (7) or (8) of this section by the later of:

(a) Four years after starting grade nine; or

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

(10)(a) A student may satisfy the requirements described in subsection (6), (7) or (8) of this section in less than four years if consent is provided in the manner described in subsection (5)(a) of this section.

(b) The consent provided under this subsection must be written and must clearly state that the parent, guardian or student is waiving the time allowed under subsection (9) of this section. A consent may not be used to allow a student to satisfy the requirements of subsection (6), (7) or (8) of this section in less than three years.

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

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

(11)(a) A student who receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate shall:

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

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

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

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

(b)(A) The number of instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services that are appropriate for a student shall be determined by the student's individualized education program team. Based on the student's needs and performance level, the student's individualized education program team may decide that the student will not access the total number of hours of instruction and services to which the student has access under paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection.

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

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

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

(i) The school district's duty to comply with the requirements of paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection; and

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

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

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

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

(12) A school district or public charter school shall:

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

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

(c) Beginning in grade five, annually provide information to the parents or guardians of a student taking an alternate assessment of the availability of a modified diploma, an extended diploma and an alternative certificate and the requirements for the diplomas and certificate.

SECTION 4. (1) The amendments to ORS 329.451 by section 3 of this 2013 Act become operative July 1, 2015.

(2) The amendments to ORS 329.451 by section 3 of this 2013 Act first apply to students graduating on or after July 1, 2015.

SECTION 5. ORS 341.450 is amended to read:

341.450. Every community college district shall encourage high school students to start early on a college education by:

(1) Implementing two-plus-two programs and other related programs[. *Each community college district shall make*] **and making** at least one such program available to each interested school district that is within the boundaries of the community college district.

(2) **Collaborating with interested school districts that are within the boundaries of the community college district to facilitate the delivery of two-plus-two programs and other related programs.**

SECTION 6. ORS 341.450, as amended by section 5, chapter 639, Oregon Laws 2011, is amended to read:

341.450. Every community college district shall encourage high school students to start early on a college education by:

(1) Implementing a dual credit program, a two-plus-two program or another accelerated college credit program[. *Each community college district shall make*] **and making** at least one such program available to each interested school district that is within the boundaries of the community college district.

(2) **Collaborating with interested school districts that are within the boundaries of the community college district to facilitate the delivery of a dual credit program, a two-plus-two program or other accelerated college credit program.**

SECTION 7. This 2013 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2013 Act takes effect on its passage.

Passed by Senate July 6, 2013

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Robert Taylor, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Passed by House July 7, 2013

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2013

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2013

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John Kitzhaber, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2013

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Kate Brown, Secretary of State