

Graduation Requirements, Content Standards, & Curriculum

The Role of the State Legislature



House Education Committee
May 13, 2021

Definitions

- **Graduation Requirements:** everything a student must do in order to earn a high school diploma
- **Statewide Content Standards:** documents that define what students should know and be able to do within a content area at specific grade levels
- **Curriculum:** the lesson plans and materials used in the classroom to instruct students



Role of the State Legislature

- Graduation Requirements
 - ORS 329.451
 - 24 total credits
 - 3 Mathematics credits
 - 4 English language arts credits (may be changed by HB 2056)
 - Gives authority to State Board to enact additional requirements
 - OAR 581-022-2000 (6)
 - Course Work
 - Social studies (3)
 - Science (3)
 - Health (1)
 - Physical education (1)
 - Career and Technical Education, The Arts or World Languages (3)

“Including history, civics, geography and economics (including personal finance)”



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SB 513: Adds .5 credit of Civics to statutory graduation requirements

SB 744: Requires review of all graduation requirements



Role of the State Legislature

- Graduation Requirements
 - ORS 329.451
 - Gives authority to State Board to enact additional requirements
 - OAR 581-022-2000 (6)
 - Non-coursework requirements:
 - Essential Skills
 - Education plan/profile
 - Collection of evidence to demonstrate the application and extension of knowledge and skills
 - Career-related learning experiences
 - Gives authority to local school boards to enact additional requirements
 - Variations in requirements for modified and extended diplomas

SB 744:
Requires review of all graduation requirements;
Suspends essential skills for two years, then eliminates them pending review



Role of the State Legislature

- Content Standards

- Generally the purview of the State Board of Education (ORS 326.051)
- Legislature can direct the State Board to:
 - Create new content standards on a specific topic
 - Include specific topics in existing content standards
 - Consult specific stakeholder groups in reviewing content standards

SB 702: Requires State Board to review social studies standards

- Curriculum

- Legislature generally plays no role
 - State Board approves (ORS 326.051)
 - Local boards select (ORS 332.075 (1)(b))



Questions?

