

Senate Bill 744

OVERVIEW AND EXPLANATION



OREGON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students who receive a diploma in Oregon must:

- Take four years of language arts (reading and writing) and three years of math.
- Take assessments in reading, writing, and math.
- Earn passing grades in 24 high school credits.

RESEARCH & ENGAGEMENT

Oregon's graduation standards were first adopted in 2007. In an effort to respond to changes in technology, society, and business and industry, Senate Bill 744 directs the Department of Education to research other state graduation models and intentionally engage communities to put forward recommended requirements for high school graduation. Senate Bill 744 maintains Oregon's course and credit requirements for graduation. Students are required to have knowledge and skill in reading, writing, and math to graduate with a diploma in Oregon.

What does Senate Bill 744 direct the Oregon Department of Education to do?

Senate Bill 744 directs the ODE to:

- **Remove the requirement** for students to demonstrate proficiency in Essential Skills. The purpose of this pause is to research and evaluate the current graduation requirements to ensure that they are equitable, accessible, and inclusive.
- Review existing state requirements for earning a high school diploma as prescribed by state law and rules adopted by the State Board of Education. This review must include an evaluation of the use of alternative certificates.
- Research other state graduation models, to compare requirements.
- Examine local implementation and the expectations of employers and post-secondary institutions by engaging with Oregon's diverse communities, educators, and business and industry partners to hear what Oregonians value and expect of the Oregon Diploma.
- Produce a report to the Legislature and the State Board of Education by September 1, 2022 that includes a summary of the review and research conducted. The report will also make recommendations regarding graduation policy for legislative and State Board consideration.

Some misreporting on the law has spurred questions on whether Senate Bill 744 no longer requires students to learn reading, writing and mathematics. As stated above, Senate Bill 744 solidifies Oregon's course requirements for graduation. **Students are required to have knowledge and skill in reading, writing, and math to graduate with a diploma in Oregon.**