

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION – ADMINISTRATIVE RULE SUMMARY

Title/OAR #: Adult High School Diploma/589-007-0600

Date: April 12, 2013

Staff/Office: Mary Jane Bagwell/CCWD

New Rule Amend Existing Rule Repeal Rule
Hearing Date: _____ Hearings Officer Report Attached
Prompted by: State law changes Federal law changes Other

Action Requested:

First Reading/Second Reading Adoption Adoption/Consent Agenda

PROPOSED/AMENDED RULE SUMMARY:

The existing Adult High School Diploma (AHSD) OAR was last revised in 2001. This rule amendment updates the OAR to align Oregon’s Adult High School Diploma (AHSD) requirements with current state graduation requirements and clarify the AHSD target population.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon’s Adult High School Diploma (AHSD) was created in the early 1970’s to provide an opportunity for individuals with an exemption from compulsory school attendance, or who otherwise are not required to attend school, to earn a rigorous high school diploma. The AHSD meets all state graduation requirements as provided in OAR 581-022-1130.

Oregon community colleges are authorized to offer AHSD instructional programs and award AHSD diplomas. Colleges must submit a local program plan to the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) that describes how the college will meet OAR 589-007-0600 requirements. Once approved by the local community college board, the plan is submitted to CCWD for review and recommendation for approval by the State Board of Education (SBE). AHSD programs are monitored to ensure compliance with state diploma requirements and standards for program quality.

The following community colleges have approved program plans on file at CCWD: Central Oregon Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Clackamas Community College, Linn Benton Community College, Mount Hood Community College, Portland Community College, Southwestern Community College, Tillamook Bay Community College, and Umpqua Community College. Recent surveys conducted by CCWD show that 400 exempted students earned an AHSD between program years 2009-10 and 2011-12.

The SBE adopted new high school graduation requirements in 2007 that were intended to better prepare students for college, careers, and citizenship. These new graduation requirements included revised credit requirements, proficiency in Essential Skills, and personalized learning requirements. As state diploma requirements change, AHSD programs are also required to implement these changes on the same schedule as public instruction providers. Further, changes to state content standards and local program requests to broaden the AHSD target population contributed to the need to reexamine and revise the rule. CCWD has been working in collaboration with Department of Education staff and a community college AHSD advisory committee for the last two years to revise the OAR and program plan requirements.

Proposed changes to the rule were presented to the advisory committee during its meetings on August 19, 2010 and May 22, 2012 to review and provide comment. The committee members were supportive of the proposed changes to the rule.

The rule was first heard by the board in January. Since that time, the rule was distributed for public comment on March 22, 2013. No public comments were received.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: ORS 341.425

ISSUES/CONCERNS THAT SURFACED DURING RULE WORK:

None.

CHANGED SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING? (so members can focus on what's different)

- N/A; first read—hasn't been before board
- No; same as last month
- Yes – As follows:

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

- Adopt administrative rule as prepared this month
- Adopt administrative rule next month
- No recommendation at this time (rarely used)

Updated by MJB on 1-15-13

OAR 589-007-0600 Adult High School Diploma Program

The purpose of the Adult High School Diploma program is to provide an opportunity for persons with an exemption from compulsory attendance to earn an Oregon diploma.

(1) Definitions. As used in this rule:

(a) "Adult High School Diploma" or "AHSD" means a diploma that fulfills all state requirements as provided in OAR 581-022-1130 and the community college program requirements as defined in the approved program plan, and is issued by a community college with an approved program plan on file at the Department of Community College and Workforce Development (CCWD).

(b) "Adult high school diploma credit" means credit earned by the student prior to enrolling in or earned outside of the AHSD program for academic coursework, as well as credit awarded by the community college for proficiency and life experience, but does not include credit awarded for challenge tests.

(c) "Adult high school diploma academic credit" means credit earned by the student at the community college for academic coursework, from either secondary level or community college courses.

(2) The State Board of Education (SBE) shall oversee the AHSD as provided in ORS 326.051 and ORS 339.505(1) and approve AHSD programs of the community colleges. The SBE delegates administrative responsibilities to the Commissioner of CCWD to review and make a recommendation to the SBE regarding program approval.

(3) CCWD shall administer the statewide AHSD program as provided in ORS 341.425 and establish policies and procedures for the approval and monitoring of AHSD programs.

(4) Community colleges are authorized to award the AHSD subject to SBE approval of the community college AHSD plan, consistent with these rules, and consistent with administrative policies and procedures of CCWD.

(5) To be eligible to receive an AHSD, a student shall—

(a) Have an exemption from compulsory attendance as provided in OAR 581-021-0076 and ORS 339.030(2), or otherwise not be required to attend as provided in ORS 339.010;

(b) Fulfill all state requirements as provided in OAR 581-022-1130 or other rules establishing minimum requirements for an Oregon diploma;

(c) Earn at least one adult high school diploma academic credit from a community college with an approved program; and

(d) Fulfill all program requirements as described in the approved community college AHSD program plan.

(6) A community college shall adopt policies and procedures for the approval of the AHSD program plan. These policies and procedures shall provide that:

(a) Before the community college may award an AHSD, the college shall have an approved program plan on file at CCWD. The plan shall be approved by the local community college board of education prior to being filed for review with CCWD and recommendation for approval by the Commissioner. The community college shall submit the plan to CCWD on a date and in a format described in guidance documents provided by CCWD.

(b) The filing process shall be complete when the SBE has approved the plan and the community college has received a letter of authorization from CCWD.

(c) The plan must include but is not limited to:

(A) The statement of assurances described in guidance documents provided by CCWD; and

(B) A description of the following:

(i) Program mission and goals;

(ii) Admission requirements;

(iii) Student orientation and advising;

(iv) Maintenance of student records;

(v) Services for students with disabilities;

(vi) Student assessment and completion criteria;

(vii) Course offerings;

(viii) Personalized learning;

(ix) Awarding adult high school diploma credit;

(x) Minimum credit requirement;

(xi) Other community college or program requirements; and

(xii) Recognition of student achievement.

(7) Once a plan is approved by the SBE, monitoring and evaluation of the approved plan is by CCWD through the Commissioner, pursuant to standards and rules of the SBE. Monitoring and evaluation shall include annual reporting by the community college with such information as CCWD may require.

(8) A community college shall adopt policies and procedures for the annual update of the AHSD program plan. These policies and procedures shall provide that:

(a) The program shall submit annually the signed statement of assurances as required by CCWD.

(b) The program shall submit annually a plan update and statistical reports as required by CCWD.

(c) The program shall participate in ongoing program monitoring and evaluation as required by CCWD.

(9) All community colleges are presumed to maintain an approved AHSD program unless the college has been found to be deficient by the Commissioner, pursuant to the AHSD plan requirements.

(10) If any deficiency is not corrected before the beginning of the program year following the date of the finding of deficiency and if an extension has not been granted under section (11), the Commissioner may recommend to the SBE that AHSD program approval be rescinded until any such deficiency is corrected unless the recommendation would create an undue hardship, as determined pursuant to rules of the SBE.

(11) The Commissioner must submit notification to a community college regarding a deficiency that will require the community college to submit a corrective action plan and a staff member of CCWD staff shall contact the community college and offer technical assistance.

(a) Within 90 days of the finding of deficiency, a community college shall submit a corrective action plan acceptable to the Commissioner for meeting AHSD plan requirements.

(b) When an acceptable plan for meeting AHSD plan requirements has been submitted, the Commissioner may allow an extension of time before recommending program approval be rescinded, not to exceed 12 months, if the Commissioner determines that any such deficiency cannot be corrected or removed before the beginning of the next program year.

(12) Pursuant to rules adopted by the SBE, the Commissioner may extend the time specified for submitting a corrective action plan if the Commissioner determines that a human-created disaster or a natural disaster affects the ability of the community college to comply with the date requirement.

(13) The SBE may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew its approval of an AHSD program if:

(a) The community college fails to maintain the requirements in OAR 581-022-1130;

(b) The community college fails to maintain the requirements in OAR 589-007-0600; or

(c) The community college refuses to implement corrective actions before the beginning of the next program year or by the end of the granted extension period.

(14) A community college may request to terminate its AHSD program by submitting a letter of termination from the community college board of education.

(15) Program suspension or termination begins on the date that:

(a) The SBE suspends, revokes, or refuses to renew its approval of an AHSD program; or

(b) The college designates as the final operating date in its letter of termination.

(16) Suspended or terminated programs requesting re-approval are required to utilize the *AHSD Program Approval Procedure* identified by CCWD.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 326.051

Stats. Implemented: ORS 341.425

Hist.: 1EB 132, f. 5-19-72, ef. 6-1-72; 1EB 166, f. 2-20-74, ef. 3-11-74; 1EB 263, f. & ef. 7-5-77; 1EB 9-1983, f. & ef. 10-13-83; EB 14-1991, f. & cert. ef. 7-19-91; Renumbered from 581-042-0005(5)(a) - (d); ODE 2-2001, f. 1-25-01, cert. ef. 1-26-01; DCCWD 1-2001, f. & cert. ef. 3-21-01, Renumbered from 581-043-0650



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MEMO

DATE: March 23, 2013

TO: Department of Community Colleges and
Workforce Development

FROM: Linda Hutchins, Hearing Officer

RE: Presiding Officer's Report to Agency on Rulemaking Hearing

Hearing Date: March 22, 2013
Hearing Location: Public Service Building Basement C
Rule Title: 589-007-0600 – Adult High School

The rulemaking hearing on the proposed rule was convened at 9:00 a.m.

Before receiving comments, I briefly summarized the proposed rule amendment.

No one attended the hearing, which was adjourned at noon on March 22, 2013.

No comments were received during the comment period for this proposed rule amendment.

C: Mary Jane Bagwell, Administrative Rule Lead
Kristin Kulongoski, Administrative Rule Lead
File

