

Believe it or not, your child is halfway to high school graduation!

Parents have common questions about achievement and instruction as students move up each grade. This guide will point you to answers as you help your student reach graduation!

What is my child learning?

State standards describe what Oregon students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.

English Language Arts (ELA)

(includes reading, writing, language, speaking and listening)

- Quote evidence that supports what the student thinks a text is saying both directly and indirectly.
- Determine a theme or central idea from particular details and provide an objective summary.
- Write arguments to support opinions and include clear reasons.

Social Sciences

Study focuses on the ancient civilizations of the Western Hemisphere and includes the exploration of:

- What is civilization?
- How do physical and human characteristics of places and regions relate to identities and cultures?
- What remains of ancient civilizations and cultures exist today?

Science

- Plan an investigation to determine the relationships among the energy, matter, mass and change of kinetic energy.
- Develop and use a model to describe how unequal heating and rotation of the Earth cause patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates.
- Conduct an investigation to provide evidence that living things are made of cells. Develop and use a model to describe the function of a cell and the ways the parts of cells contribute to its function.

Mathematics

- Understand ratio concepts and use that understanding to solve math problems.
- Develop an understanding of how math phrases can be written as algebraic expressions. For example, "A number plus one equals five," becomes, " $X + 1 = 5$."
- Understand positive and negative numbers.

What does it take to graduate?

It may seem strange to think about high school graduation now; but, middle school is when students begin forming thoughts and feelings about their future after high school. The best way to set your student up to reach graduation is to make sure they are regularly attending school and meeting standards every year.

Here are the things graduates need to accomplish in order to receive their diplomas:

1. Earned a total of 24 high school credits.

English, **4 credits**
Math, **3 credits**
Science, **3 credits**

Social Studies, **3 credits**
P.E., **1 credit**
Health, **1 credit**

Second Language,
Arts or Career-Tech, **3 credits**
Other electives, **6 credits**

2. Completed career-planning activities.

*** The Oregon Department of Education has suspended the Essential Skills graduation requirement until 2024.*

**Some students may need extra time or support to achieve high school graduation requirements. Schools are prepared to support students' unique learning needs.

For information on diploma options, please contact your student's counselor.

How is my child doing?

Staying engaged in your child's education is critical.

For many students, having their families be active members in their education can help keep them on track to graduate.

These are a few ways parents or guardians can stay involved in knowing how their child is doing in their classes and help their child receive the support needed to succeed.



Progress reports

Families get official reporting on grades every nine weeks. Parents are encouraged to check-in regularly with their child on class progress and guardians can access up-to-date grading information through ParentVUE. Final semester grades are sent home at the end of each semester—midyear (late in January) and at the end of the school year (June). Salem-Keizer middle schools currently use a letter grade scale (A to F).



Talk with your student's teachers

A conversation with your child's teachers is a great way to find out how they are doing. Email or through the ParentSquare app is the fastest way to get in touch with teachers, but they may also be available for phone conversations after school.

Remember—it's important to attend parent-teacher conferences! Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet one-on-one with your child's teacher.



ParentVUE

salkeiz.k12.or.us/parentvue-studentvue/

Parents can find their student's current grades, class schedule, attendance and assignment information through this online tool. Attendance information is updated daily. Please contact your school for assistance with activating your ParentVUE account.



State tests

Every year, Oregon students in grades 3–8 and 11 grade take state tests in reading, writing and math. Grades 5, 8 and 11 also take annual tests in science. The tests measure students' knowledge of state standards and give the Oregon Department of Education feedback about how schools are doing. The state test for English language arts and math is called the Oregon Statewide Assessment. Students take the test in the spring, and results are sent home around the end of summer.

Ahead of statewide assessments, students will benefit from **encouragement and practice**. After students have had more experience with the test, families may choose to look at state test results as one way to gauge their student's progress toward mastering state standards.

How can I help at home?

As a parent or guardian, you are the most influential person in your child's future success.

There are many things you can do to help set your child up for success in school.

Tips to prepare your child for graduation at home

- Demonstrate a positive attitude about school. Your children will model your attitude.
- Know about the academic concepts your child is learning in school (*reverse side*).
- Have a comfortable place set up for homework, and make sure there are enough supplies like paper and pencils. Contact your school for support, if needed.
- Encourage your student to read every day.
- Encourage writing at home. Write together, and include details.
- Talk with your student about going to college and about different trade or career opportunities.
- Help your student build study habits by reviewing due dates for homework and project schedules.
- Check your child's online learning platform for homework and messages sent from school.
- Try your best to help your child have regular attendance and actively participate in class. Regular engagement and participation in school is critical. Use ParentVUE to track student attendance and encourage active participation in class activities each and every day.