

**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 most strongly supports what a text is saying both directly and indirectly.
- Determine a theme or central idea; analyze the development over the course of the text, including its relationship to characters, setting and plot; provide an objective summary.
- Write arguments to support claims with logical reasons and credible evidence, acknowledging and distinguishing the claim from alternate or opposing claims.

**Science**

- Plan an investigation to provide evidence that the change in an object's motion depends on the sum of the forces on the object and its mass.
- Develop and use a model of the earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.
- Develop and use a model to describe why mutations to genes on chromosomes may affect proteins and may result in harmful, beneficial or neutral effects.

**Social Sciences**

- Study focuses on the foundation of the United States of America and includes the exploration of:
- What are the foundational values of the U.S.?
- How do values influence society and vice versa?
- How does the government respond to pressures and shifting values?

**Mathematics**

- Solve linear equations and pairs of linear equations. For example,  $y = 2x - 2$  and  $y = -x + 7$ .
- Use functions to illustrate relationships between numbers. A function describes what happens to a number (input) to produce an outcome (output). In  $f(x) = x^2$ , the input is squared to get the output.
- Understand and use the Pythagorean Theorem ( $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ ).

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 he or she is 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/](http://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.
- Understand graduation requirements (*reverse side*).
- Talk with your student about going on to college and about different trade and career opportunities.
- Contact your student's counselor to learn about scholarship resources and college application deadlines.
- Have a comfortable place set up at home for schoolwork, and make sure there are enough supplies such as paper and pencils. Contact your school for support, if needed.
- Help your student build and maintain study habits by reviewing homework assignment due dates and schedules.
- Know about the academic concepts your child is learning in school (*reverse side*).
- 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 important. Use ParentVUE to track student attendance and encourage active participation in class activities each and every day.