

Graduation is almost here!

Families are still needed to help their child on their path to graduation during this final stretch. Families have common questions about achievement and instruction as students move through each grade. This guide will point you to answers to help your student reach graduation!

What is my child learning?

State standards describe what Oregon students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

High school standards aren't always tied to one specific grade.

Mathematics

Unlike earlier grades, high school math and science standards are organized around a concept instead of a grade level.

- Creating and solving equations with two or more variables.
- Explore various types of functions and their characteristics.
- Explore concepts of similarity, congruence and trigonometry.

Science

- Use math to support the claim that atoms and mass are conserved during a chemical reaction.
- Using math, show how factors such as resources, climate, competition, etc., affect the number of living things ecosystems can support
- Illustrate the lifespan of the sun and how energy is transferred from the sun's core to the Earth.

Social Sciences

- Evaluate a historical source for point of view and historical context.
- Explain the responsibilities of citizens (e.g., vote, pay taxes).
- Explain the function of the stock market.

English Language Arts (ELA)

High school ELA standards may sound similar to previous grades' standards. The difference is that students continue to deepen skills by reading increasingly complex texts (both literature and informational) and refining writing skills.

- Cite strong evidence from a text to support analysis of what the text says, both explicitly and implied, and where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to describe complex ideas and information clearly and accurately.
- Conduct research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject.

What does it take to graduate?

**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.

High school is the time to focus on meeting graduation requirements. It's important for students to stay on track in high school. **If students fall behind in high school, it's difficult to catch up—there's little time to spare in a high school schedule.**

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.

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.
- Understand graduation requirements (*reverse side*).
- Talk with your student about going on to college and about different career and trade 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. Use ParentVUE to track student attendance and encourage active participation in class activities each and every day.