



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# Oregon's Newest Diploma Requirements

## Senate Bill 3

### Overview

Beginning with the class of 2027, the Oregon diploma requirements will include a 0.5 credit in Personal Financial Education and a 0.5 credit in Higher Education and Career Path Skills, as part of the 24 credit requirements. This requires the development of new standards designed to support students in developing skills they will need to be successful in their future lives.

### Background

One of the recommendations from [Senate Bill 744](#) (2021) included adding a requirement for a future and financial planning course, providing a foundation for the development of [Senate Bill 3](#) in the 2023 session. Senate Bill 3, requiring a 0.5 credit in Personal Financial Education and a 0.5 credit in Higher Education and Career Path Skills, received broad support from educators, parents, students, and business and community partners.

In June 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed, and Governor Kotek signed Senate Bill 3. Together, this new legislation and the [Senate Bill 744 community-informed recommendations](#) for graduation requirements provide momentum to help create more equitable, inclusive, and accessible diploma requirements.

### Purpose of the New Requirements

The purpose of Oregon's newest diploma requirements are to:

- Provide students opportunities to acquire a variety of real-world skills,
- Enable students to focus on the practical application of financial literacy to future aspirations,
- Establish dedicated time for all students to receive support in developing interview skills and resumes, applying for financial aid, and completing employment and/or college applications, and
- Promote students' successful transition to career, college, and adult life.



# Credit Requirements

Senate Bill 3 provides definitions that describe the type of knowledge, skills, and experiences that students will gain in their high school coursework.

## Personal Financial Education Credit Requirement

As established in Senate Bill 3, Personal Financial Education means instruction that provides guidance on:

- Credit scores, including how to build credit, the costs and benefits of borrowing money on credit and the long-term impacts of high or low credit scores;
- Investments, asset building and debt, including how to open a bank account, different types of bank accounts, compound interest, the total cost of loan repayment, comparing investment options and types of investments and understanding different types of retirement accounts;
- Strategies for creating a budget, tracking and modifying spending patterns and understanding insurance products, including exploring common costs associated with rentals and home ownership;
- Taxes, including accessing tax credits, understanding tax cycles, being familiar with state and federal tax forms and being familiar with federal, state, regional and local taxes; and
- Building financial well-being, including evaluating the impact of behavioral economics and the psychology of money, explaining trends in financial health and evaluating consumer skills, including fraud and identity theft prevention.

## Higher Education and Career Path Skills Credit Requirement

As established in Senate Bill 3, Higher Education and Career Path Skills means providing instruction on:

- Applying for jobs, including preparing a resume or filling out a job application and developing job interview skills;
- Applying for admission to a post-secondary institution of education, including applying for financial aid and scholarships;
- Applying for post-secondary learning and job training opportunities and programs that do not require a four-year degree, including apprenticeships and how to meet the prerequisites for those opportunities and programs;
- Developing career-related skills, including improving employability skills, taking advantage of community-based experiential learning and gaining knowledge of career opportunities; and
- Seeking assistance, including accessing community resources and acting as a self-advocate for mental, physical and financial well-being.





## Timeline

Implementation of these new diploma requirements will first require the adoption of new Oregon Administrative Rules and instructional standards by the State Board of Education. These new rules and standards will support schools in providing students with opportunities to complete a 0.5 credit of higher education and career path skills and a 0.5 credit of personal financial education in grades 9-12, starting with the class of 2027.

The Oregon Department of Education recommends to start planning, communicating and implementing the new diploma requirement as early as possible. The Department has established the following anticipated implementation timeline:

### 2023-2024:

- ODE convenes content panels to develop standards and engages with partners for feedback on draft standards.
- ODE and TSPC engages in rule-making to determine licensure requirements.

### 2024-2025:

- ODE develops resources to support implementation, including instructional materials evaluation tools.

### 2025-2026

- Most districts and public charter schools implement new course requirements.

### 2026-2027:

- Students are required to have completed a 0.5 credit in Personal Financial Education and a 0.5 credit in Higher Education and Career Path Skills as part of earning an Oregon Diploma.
  - *Waivers available if a district or school is able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Oregon Department of Education, based on rules adopted by the State Board of Education, that the district or school is unable to provide courses necessary for students to satisfy the credit requirements and due to a lack of educators qualified to provide the courses. If approved, this is a one-year waiver.*

### 2027-2028:

- Students are required to have completed a 0.5 credit in Personal Financial Education and a 0.5 credit in Higher Education and Career Path Skills to earn an Oregon Diploma.
  - *Waivers are not available.*

## Waiver

Senate Bill 3 amends the requirements outlined in [ORS 329.451](#) to apply to high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2027. It also allows a school district, public charter school, or education service district to request a one-year waiver if needed. Districts or schools can apply for a waiver if they are unable to provide courses necessary for students to satisfy the credit requirements and due to a lack of educators qualified to provide the courses. If approved, the waiver is for one year only.

*To obtain a waiver, districts must:*

- Request a waiver for students who will be awarded high school diplomas on or after January 1, 2027, and before January 1, 2028, and
- Ensure that students who will be awarded high school diplomas on or after January 1, 2028, can satisfy the credit requirements of ORS 329.451.

## Development Approach

The Oregon Department of Education will develop and support the content standards for these new required courses using a multi-step approach, including:

- Convening content standards panels for Personal Financial Education and Higher Education and Career Path Skills,
- Conducting ongoing engagement to learn from and incorporate input and feedback,
- Convening an instructional materials review panel to develop criteria and a rubric for identifying high-quality curriculum and resources, and
- Developing resources to support districts, public charter schools and education service districts with implementation.





## New Diploma Requirements: FAQs

**Q: When will this change in requirements take effect?**

A: Students must earn a 0.5 credit in personal financial literacy and a 0.5 higher education and career path skills to be awarded a standard Oregon diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

**Q: Does this increase the diploma credit requirement from 24 to 25 credits?**

A: No. The total credit requirements remain at 24 credits for the class of 2027 and beyond. Refer to the Credit Requirements table on the [Oregon Diploma](#) webpage for specific requirements.

**Q: Are there any new requirements for extended and modified diplomas?**

A: Yes. The new diploma requirements apply to all Oregon Diploma types including modified diploma.

**Q: What if a district is not ready to implement for the 2026-2027 school year?**

A: Senate Bill 3 includes a provision for a one-year waiver. Schools who receive a waiver must be ready to offer the required courses and credit by January 1, 2028.

**Q: We are a public charter school, does this apply to us?**

A: Yes, it applies to all public charter schools.

**Q: Who must be notified about the new diploma requirements?**

A: Districts should communicate the new diploma requirements to grade 9 students in 2023/2024, graduating Spring 2027. Also, beginning in grade 5, students who are served by an IEP must have their families notified of diploma requirements.

**Q: When will standards be developed?**

A: The Oregon Department of Education is currently in the planning phase and will publish a timeline for development on the [Oregon Diploma](#) webpage once it is ready.

**Q: What instructional materials should we be using to teach the courses?**

A: As part of the implementation process, ODE and an advisory panel will develop criteria to evaluate instructional materials related to personal financial education and higher education and career path skills. This criteria should be available by the 2024-25 school year.

For questions, contact: [ODE.StateGraduationRequirements@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ODE.StateGraduationRequirements@ode.oregon.gov)