



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Date: April 1, 2022

To: School Board

From: Mary Kane, Senior Legal Counsel

cc: Guadalupe Guerrero, Superintendent
Liz Large, Contracted General Counsel

Subject: Staff Analysis Report to the Board

Policy # and Name: 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements

BACKGROUND

The 2021 Oregon legislature enacted a number of changes to graduation requirements, including adding a ½ credit civics requirement (effective for the class graduating in 2026), removing “english” from the definition of language arts, and redefining world language to allow credit to be awarded for language courses that teach a language other than the student’s primary language. After the policy came to the Board on January 25, 2022, Board members asked that the essential skills section be amended to more clearly describe the process for students and to clarify the world language changes. Staff provided suggested revisions to the Policy Committee on March 30, 2022. The Policy Committee recommended that the revisions move to the Board for a new first reading.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

It is best practice to review policies regularly to determine whether they reflect current laws and practices. It is also a best practice to write policies that are readily understandable.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

The amendments to the policy should be adopted in order to align with state law and to be more accurate and comprehensible for our community. PPS staff consulted with ODE on certain changes, as well.

FISCAL IMPACT

These changes are not expected to have a material financial impact.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Because these changes were driven by legislative directives, there was limited stakeholder engagement. A variety of internal stakeholders were consulted to correctly interpret and develop procedures to align with state law.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION and COMMUNICATION PLAN

Staff has already communicated to school administrators of the changes to diploma requirements and has already identified current students who are impacted by the world changes. They are also developing guidance to be shared with staff and students.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board accept the respective revisions as recommended by the Policy Committee.