



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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STAFF REPORT

Date: March 20, 2024
To: School Board
From: Mary Kane, Senior Legal Counsel
cc: Dr. Sandy Husk, Interim Superintendent
Liz Large, Contracted General Counsel
Subject: 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements

BACKGROUND

The 2023 Oregon legislature enacted a number of changes to graduation requirements, including extending the pause on the essential skills requirement until 2027. Additionally, it now requires students, beginning with the class of 2027, complete .5 credits in Personal Financial Education and Higher Education and Career Path Skills to satisfy diploma requirements. Staff brought forward a proposed amended Diploma policy to the Policy Committee and then to the Student Success Committee with information on implementation plans. Upon its return to the Policy Committee on March 18, it was recommended that it go out to the full Board.

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 no stakeholder engagement.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION and COMMUNICATION PLAN

Staff has already communicated to school administrators of the changes to diploma requirements. 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.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Redline version 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements
- B. Clean version 4.20.042-P Diploma Requirements