



Hello Parents,  
Welcome to

# HIGH SCHOOL!

Graduation is just around the corner!

As students get closer to graduation, parents have common questions about achievement and instruction. This guide will point you to answers as you help your student prepare for graduation and college or career.

**Find more resources at [www.skgradguide.com](http://www.skgradguide.com)**

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# 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.

## English Language Arts

Examples of high school standards:

(includes reading, writing, language, speaking and listening)

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.

## Math

Unlike earlier grades, high school math standards are organized around a concept (i.e., algebra, geometry) 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

- Illustrate the lifespan of the sun and how energy is transferred from the sun's core to the Earth.

- 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.

## 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.

There are also standards for English language acquisition (for English language learners), physical education, health education, art and others.

# WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GRADUATE?

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 members of the class of 2017 accomplished in order to receive their diplomas:

1. Earned a total of 24 high school credits in the classes shown here. One credit equals one full year (or 2 semesters) of class with a passing grade.

**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. Demonstrated they have "essential skills" as defined by the state. Students proved they have these skills through state tests or other approved tests (such as PSAT, SAT, ACT or WorkKeys), or by providing work samples.

3. Completed career planning activities.



For more information about high school graduation requirements, please visit [www.skgradguide.com](http://www.skgradguide.com)

# HOW IS MY CHILD DOING?



Four ways to find out:

## 1 Progress reports

Parents of high school students will receive a progress report every six weeks. 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 high schools currently use a letter grade scale (A to F).

## 2 State tests

Every year, Oregon students in grades 3–8 and grade 11 take state tests in reading, writing, math and 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 Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students take the test in the spring, and results are sent home around the end of summer.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment was first used in our district in 2015, so it is still relatively new. Students will benefit from **encouragement and practice** to help them adjust to the new style of test.

After students have had more experience with the test, parents may choose to look at state test results as one way to gauge their student's progress toward mastering state standards.

## 3 Talk with teachers

A conversation with your student's teachers is a great way to find out how he or she is doing. Email is probably the fastest way to get in touch with teachers, but they are also available for phone conversations after school. Remember - it's important to **attend parent-teacher conferences**. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet with teachers in person. Parents are also always welcome to visit the school, and to become a volunteer.

## 4 ParentVUE

<http://www.salemkeizer.org/parents/parentvue>

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 to activate your ParentVUE account.



[www.skgradguide.com](http://www.skgradguide.com)

# HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

As a parent or guardian of a student, **you are the most influential person in your child's future success.**

There are many things you can do to help set your student up for success in school and for life after graduation. Here are a few:

- Make regular school attendance a priority.
- Make education a family value.
- Understand graduation requirements (see page 2).
- Talk with your student about going on to college and about different careers.
- Contact your student's counselor to learn about scholarship resources and college application deadlines.
- Have a comfortable place set up at home for homework, and make sure there are enough supplies, such as paper and pencils.
- Students should read every day.
- Encourage writing at home. Write together, and include details.
- Help your student build and maintain study habits by reviewing homework assignment due dates and schedules. **Check your student's planner or agenda every day.**

Find tips and skill-building exercises at [www.skgradguide.com](http://www.skgradguide.com)

## 2017-18 KEY DATES TO REMEMBER (High School)

First day of school, grade 9	Sept. 5
First day of school, grades 10-12	Sept. 6
Grading and staff development day	Oct. 12*
Statewide inservice day	Oct. 13*
Veteran's Day holiday	Nov. 10*
Grading and staff development day	Nov. 20*
All day conferences	Nov. 21*
No school	Nov. 22*
Thanksgiving holiday	Nov. 23*, 24*
Winter Break	Dec. 18*-29*
New Year's Day holiday	Jan. 1*
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday	Jan. 15*
Finals – early release	Jan. 23-25
Grading day	Jan. 26*
Presidents Day holiday	Feb. 19*
Grading and staff development day	Mar. 9*
All day conferences	Mar. 22*
No school	Mar. 23*
Spring Break	Mar. 26*-30*
Grading and staff development day	Apr. 27*
Memorial Day holiday	May 28*
Finals – early release	June 12-14
Last day of school (subject to change if inclement weather or other closure)	June 14

\* No school for all secondary grades

Calendars may change. Confirm closure dates with your school.



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