

Oregon schools are  
**better** today.



and  
more  
**changes**  
are coming.

## Oregon schools are changing.

Schools all over Oregon are transforming themselves to make sure students get the knowledge, skills and experience they need to succeed in the 21st Century.

For too long, students could get by while learning too little. Students could graduate with a minimum 22 credits and a D- average. No wonder some graduates read at only a fifth grade level.

Success today and in the future requires much more. That's why Oregon schools are raising expectations for all students and setting higher standards of achievement in basic subject areas. New standards specify what a student must know and be able to do in English, mathematics, science, the social sciences, the arts, a second language and career-related learning.

## Standards measure results.

The idea behind standards is simple. Standards define what it takes to know and do something well. Getting a license to practice medicine, work as an electrician or fly an airplane requires meeting a set of established standards.

Statewide learning standards are being used to evaluate each student's performance. They set clear guidelines for what students should learn in every major subject area. Students, parents and teachers will know what is expected.

During the 1998-99 school year, students meeting 10th grade standards will become the

first to earn Certificates of Initial Mastery. These certificates will verify that students have mastered a high level of knowledge and skills. By the 2004-05 school year, schools statewide also will award Certificates of Advanced Mastery to students meeting 12th grade standards.

## New standards come with help.

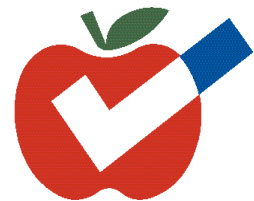
Many students may not earn certificates on the first try. Those students who don't meet standards for their certificates will get extra help and can take tests again.

## Colleges value new standards.

Colleges and universities also have developed standards students must meet to show they are ready for college-level work. New admission standards at Oregon's public universities align with standards in Oregon high schools. Major colleges and universities from around the country also plan to recognize Oregon standards as evidence students can succeed in college.

## Employers will, too.

Oregon employers also view the certificates as important credentials. Because the bar has been raised so much higher, certificate holders clearly will have a competitive edge in the job market – and in all aspects of life. Certificates will become a more reliable measure of an applicant's knowledge, skills and ability.



**T**he Oregon Business Council (OBC), which was established in 1985, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan and independent organization of more than 40 top Oregon business leaders. OBC's mission is to contribute to Oregon's long-term social and economic well-being.

Its directors are chief executive officers of Oregon-based companies, senior executives of Oregon-based divisions of national companies, and individuals in the business community who play a significant role in developing public policy in Oregon.

Because of the linkage between education, workforce quality, economic competitiveness and social cohesion, OBC has identified public K through 12 and higher education as priorities.

OBC is committed to partnerships with education to implement the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century.

For more information about school-business partnerships in Oregon, check our website at <http://www.worksite21.org> – or write:



**OREGON BUSINESS COUNCIL**

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1100 SW Sixth Avenue, Suite 1608  
Portland, Oregon 97204