



City of
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News from: **Oakland Public Library**

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Earn an Accredited High School Diploma at Oakland Public Library

Oakland, CA – Oakland Public Library is offering qualified residents the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and credentialed career certificate through Career Online High School, a program brought to public libraries by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning. Part of the world’s first accredited, private online school district, Career Online High School is specifically designed to reengage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education or the workforce. Currently, nearly 20% of adults in Oakland lack a high school degree or equivalent (52,321 residents over age 25; and an additional 6,870 residents age 18-24).

“Earning a high school diploma is a life-changing achievement,” said Gerry Garzon, Library Director. “By offering Career Online High School, we’re empowering our residents to seek new opportunities and transform their lives.”

“We’re delighted to partner with Oakland Public Library to offer Career Online High School and give residents access to education and the potential to change their lives,” said Paul Gazzolo, senior vice president and general manager for Gale.

Oakland Public Library will award scholarships for Career Online High School to qualified adults (age 19 and over) looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers. Once enrolled, Career Online High School pairs each student with an Academic Coach, who assists with developing an individual career plan, offers ongoing guidance and encouragement, evaluates performance, and connects the learner with the resources needed to demonstrate mastery of the course material. Classes are supported by board-certified instructors and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Coursework begins in one of eight high-growth, high-demand career fields (across a wide spectrum from child care and education to certified transportation), before progressing to the core academic subjects. Many students are able to graduate in as few as 4 to 6 months by transferring in previously earned high school credits.

Residents can learn more about Career Online High School by visiting the library’s Web site www.oaklandlibrary.org/diploma or by emailing diploma@oaklandlibrary.org.

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