

**Instruction****HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma so that they can take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)  
 (cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)  
 (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)  
 (cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)  
 (cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

**Course Requirements**

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete at least the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

	<u>Credits</u>
1. English (cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)	40
2. Two courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)	20

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Algebra I or Mathematics I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

Students may be awarded up to one mathematics course credit for successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category c" course based on the "a-g" course requirements for college admission. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)  
 (cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)	20
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(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

4. Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; World history, culture and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in Economics (Education Code 51225.3)	35
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(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)  
 (cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

5. One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, including American Sign Language, or career technical education (CTE) (Education Code 51225.3) 10

\* To meet the UC/CSU a-g, counselors are expected to schedule the vast majority of students in both art and World Languages over their four years; however in recognition of special circumstances, a CTE or art course could be substituted in lieu of a Foreign Language with approval of the Superintendent or designee.

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a CTE course shall be aligned to the CTE model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)  
 (cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)  
 (cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)  
 (cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

6. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3) 20

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)  
 (cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)  
 (cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)  
 (cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

7. Health, unless the Ed Code requirements are embedded in a different Board approved course 5

Requires that the district include instruction in sexual harassment and violence, including, but not limited to, information on the affirmative consent standard pursuant to Education Code 67386. Also see AR 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction.

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)  
 (cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)  
 (cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

8. Computer Studies 10

9. Electives 60

10. Senior Project (optional by site with approval from Superintendent) Pass/Fail

Total 220

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the Board shall provide alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

### **Exemptions and Waivers**

A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, or child of a military family who transfers into the district any time after completing his/her second year of high school, or a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, shall be required to complete all graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional district-adopted graduation requirements, unless the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer, any such student shall be notified of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)

(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

### **Retroactive Diplomas**

Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 school year and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma. (Education Code 51413)

In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Persons who departed California against their will while in grade 12 and did not receive a diploma because the departure interrupted their education, provided that they were in good academic standing at the time of the departure. Persons may be considered to have departed California against their will if they were in custody of a government agency and were transferred to another state, were subject to a lawful order from a court or government agency that authorized their removal from California, were subject to a lawful order and were permitted to depart California before being removed from California pursuant to the lawful order, were removed or were permitted to depart voluntarily.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or departed due to other circumstances determined by the district that are consistent with the purposes of Education Code 48204.4.

In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall consider any coursework that may have been completed outside of the United States or through online or virtual courses.

2. Former students who were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district school immediately preceding the internment or military service and did not receive a diploma because their education was interrupted due to the internment or military service in those wars

Deceased former students who satisfy these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin.

3. Veterans who entered the military service of the United States while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school

**Honorary Diplomas**

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to: (Education Code 51225.5)

1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of study ordinarily required for graduation and who is returning to the home country following the completion of one academic school year in the district

(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

2. A student who is terminally ill

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district. (Education Code 51225.5)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 47612 Enrollment in charter school
- 48200 Compulsory attendance
- 48204.4 Parents/guardians departing California against their will
- 48412 Certificate of proficiency
- 48430 Continuation education schools and classes
- 48645.5 Acceptance of coursework
- 48980 Required notification at beginning of term
- 49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- 51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

- 51224.5 Algebra instruction
- 51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements
- 51225.2 Student in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course
- 51225.3 High school graduation
- 51225.35 Mathematics course requirements; computer science
- 51225.36 Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation
- 51225.5 Honorary diplomas
- 51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- 51228 Graduation requirements
- 51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
- 51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents
- 51410-51412 Diplomas
- 51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates
- EDUCATION CODE (continued)
- 51430 Retroactive high school diplomas
- 51440 Retroactive high school diplomas
- 51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
- 51745 Independent study restrictions
- 56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education
- 66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria
- 67386 Student safety; affirmative consent standard
- CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
- 1600-1651 Graduation of pupils from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
- 4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures
- COURT DECISIONS
- O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

- CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
- California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs>
- University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:  
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

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**Instruction**

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Requirements for graduation and specified alternative means for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to students, parents/guardians, and the public. (Education Code 51225.3)

Students shall not be required to have resided within the district for any minimum length of time as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Code 51411)

If a student successfully completes the district's graduation requirements while attending a juvenile court school or nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency, the district shall issue the student a diploma from the school the student last attended. (Education Code 48645.5)

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward

Graduation) (cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

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