Instruction

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS REQUIREMENTS

The County Board of Education desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their 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 the following courses in grades 9-12, except for students who are exempted from certain course requirements as identified below. Each course shall be one year unless otherwise specified. Ten units of credit shall be granted for the successful completion of a year's study of a particular course:

1.   Three courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2.   Two courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

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)

Board Adopted: August 19, 2021

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

(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)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)
(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

5.   One course in visual or performing arts, world language, or career technical education (CTE). For purposes of this requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in world language. (Education Code 51225.3)

        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. (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.2 - World 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)

(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)

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)

Board Adopted: August 19, 2021

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth, homeless students, children of military families, or students in grades 11 or 12 during the 2020-2021 school year who are not on track to graduate in four years from all coursework and requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements, in accordance with Education Code 51225, 51225.1, 51225.3, and 49701.

(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)

Students enrolled in grades 11 or 12 during the 2020-2021 school year who are not on track to graduate in the 2020-2021 or 2021-2022 school year shall be provided with the opportunity to complete the statewide minimum coursework required for graduation. The County Superintendent or Superintendent's designee may offer a fifth year of high school instruction, credit recovery options, or other opportunities that allow for the completion of statewide minimum coursework. (Education Code 51225, 51225.3)

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 former students who: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1.   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

Board Adopted: August 19, 2021

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

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 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.   Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or 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.   Are 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

4.   Were in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year as of March 1, 2020, and were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

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 student's 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)

Board Adopted: August 19, 2021

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

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*
> *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*
> *51230 Credit for community emergency response training*
> *51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements*
> *51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents*
> *51410-51413 Diplomas*
> *51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates*
> *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 students 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*

Board Adopted: August 19, 2021