

Instruction

BP 6146.1 (a)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

~~Because graduation from high school provides students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment, the~~ *The* Board of Education desires to prepare *all students* each student to obtain a *high school* diploma of high school graduation. *so that they can take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.*

(cf. 5127 – Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 5147 – Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 5149 – At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6011 – Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 – Course of Study)

(cf. 6146.3 – Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

Course Requirements

To obtain a *high school* diploma, ~~of graduation from high school~~, students shall complete at least the following courses while in grades 9 through 12 inclusive with each course being one year unless otherwise specified: (Education Code 51225.3)

1. Four courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.91 – Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Three course in mathematics (including Algebra I which shall be taken in grades 7-12, Education Code 51225.3)

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the three math courses, shall meet of exceed Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework that meets or exceeds 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, shall satisfy the algebra coursework requirement* but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three 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. 6011 – Academic Standards)

(cf. 6142.92 – Mathematics Instruction)

(cf. 6152.1 – Placement in Mathematics Course)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.93 – Science Instruction)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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; a one-semester course in economics (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.3 – Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.93 – History-Social Science Instruction)

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

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a ~~course in career technical education~~ **CTE course** shall be aligned to the ~~career technical~~ **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 exempted pursuant to **other sections of the** Education Code. (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.7 – Physical Education)

7. One semester of health

(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)

Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

District students are required to complete graduation course requirements specified above, including the requirements imposed by Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board. However, a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, shall be exempted from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption shall not apply if 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 or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student 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)

~~The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth or children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.3 and 49701.~~

~~*(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)*~~

~~*(cf. 6173.2 - Education for Children of Military Families)*~~

High School Exit Examination

~~Each student completing grade 12 shall successfully pass the high school exit exam in language arts and mathematics in order to receive a diploma of graduation. (Education Code 60851, 60859) Students shall be afforded the opportunity to take the exit examination in accordance with state law and guidelines.~~

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

~~*(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)*~~

~~*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*~~

~~Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student in grades 7-12 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress" toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code 37252, 60851)~~

~~*(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)*~~

~~*(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)*~~

~~*(cf. 6177 - Summer School)*~~

~~*(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)*~~

~~For purposes of determining eligibility for supplemental instruction, "sufficient progress" shall be determined by students' grades and other indicators of academic achievement designated by the District.~~

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

~~Students who have not passed one or both parts of the exit exam by the end of grade 12 shall have the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade 12 or until they have passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first. (Education Code 37254)~~

~~(cf. 1312.4—Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 6164.2—Guidance/Counseling Services)~~

Certificates of Completion

~~Students who have passed all the District's course requirements by the end of their senior year but are unable to pass the high school exit exam shall receive a certificate of completion.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students receiving a certificate of completion and the resources that have been offered to such students.~~

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 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.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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*

~~The District may retroactively grant a high school diploma to a former student who was interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who is an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that he/she was enrolled in a District school immediately preceding the internment or military service and he/she did not receive a diploma because his/her education was interrupted due to the internment or military service. (Education Code 51430)~~

~~In addition, the Board may retroactively grant a diploma to a deceased former student who satisfies the above conditions. The diploma shall be received by the deceased student's next of kin. (Education Code 51430)~~

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**

~~35186-Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures~~

~~37252-Supplemental instructional programs~~

~~37254-Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit by end of grade 12~~

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

~~37254.1 Required student participation in supplemental instruction~~

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 Requirements for 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; foreign exchange students

51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation

51228 Graduation requirements

51240-41246 Exemptions from requirements

51250-~~512151~~ *51251* Assistance to military dependents

51410-~~51412~~ *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

52378 Supplemental school counseling program

56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education

~~60850-60859~~ *High school exit exam*

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

~~CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>~~

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, ~~California~~ 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>

Policy amended: June 8, 2020

Policy amended: March 22, 2012

Policy amended: January 14, 2010

Policy amended: April 2, 2009

Policy amended: April 20, 2006

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ALVORD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Riverside, California