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Subject: High School Graduation Requirements Effective 6/24/92
Revised 04/28/21

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study, and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increase their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

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(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)
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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:

1. Four courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)

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(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)
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2. Three courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

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(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)
(cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)
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 Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)

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(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)
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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)

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(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)
(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)
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 One course in visual or performing arts or world language. 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)

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(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)
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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)

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(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)
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7. A one-semester course in health education.

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

- 8. 155 units must be completed in accordance with the content or subject area minimum requirement indicated in the basic requirement chart below.
- 9. 270 units are required, in grades 9 through 12, to qualify for a diploma of graduation.

Basic Requirements

| Content or Subject Area | Required Units | Required Courses or Program |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Fine Arts or Foreign Language | 10 | Any approved Visual and Performing Arts or Foreign Language Course. |
| | | Grade 9 (10 units) English 9 |
| | | Grade 10 (10 Units) English 10 |
| English | 40 | Grade 11 (10 units) English 11 |
| | | Grade 12 (10 units) English 12 |
| | | Or any other approved course. ELD 3 may be used for 10 units of the English requirement. |
| Mathematics | 30 | Curricular content of Algebra 1 and Geometry and additional coursework to equal 30 credits |
| Physical Education | 20 | Physical Education - Grade 9 (10 units) Physical Education - Grades 10, 11, 12 (10 units) |
| Science | 20 | Any course approved for science credit. Course must include: Biological Science (10 units) Physical Science (10 units) |
| Health | 5 | Health (5 Units) |
| Social Science | 30 | World History - Grades 10 (10 units) US. History - Grade 11 (10 units) American Government - Grade 12 (5 units) Economics - Grade 12 (5 units) |
| Basic Requirements | 155 | |
| Elective Units | 115 Units | |
| Total | 270 Units | |

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 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 or fourth year of high school and is participating in a

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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. 6172.2 - 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 2003-2004 through 2014-2015 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)

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 Pupil 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

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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

(3/91 10/93 3/00 5/05 5/09, 10/17)