

Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements

Original Adopted Date: 11/14/2007 | Last Revised Date: 04/13/2022

New Revised Date: 06.21.2023

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 increases their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 5147 -

District students shall complete graduation course requirements as specified in Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board, except for students who are exempted as provided in "Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements," below. Students who are exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and school activity related to graduation in which other students are eligible to participate.

Course Requirements

Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

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Course Requirements

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

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1. Four courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Three courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

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

1. ~~Students may be awarded up to one mathematics course credit for successful~~ Successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category C" course based on the "a-g" course University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) "A-G" admission requirements for college admission. shall be counted toward the satisfaction of additional graduation requirements in mathematics. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

(cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)

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

(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)
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)

7. One Course of a World/Foreign Language.

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

8. Completion of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act application is required or graduation from the comprehensive and alternative high schools.

9. Limitations: Office/student aide: 10 credits maximum (Office aides are Seniors ONLY; Office Aides receive Pass/Fail grade only, which are not to be used to determine athletic eligibility. In order to be considered for an Office Aid position, students must be on track for graduation.)

Work Experience: 40 credits maximum
Community Service: 20 credits maximum
ROP/CTE: 40 credits maximum

The remaining credits required for graduation will come from available elective courses.

~~*(cf. 6142.4-*~~

[Beginning with the 2029-30 school year, a two-semester course in ethnic studies \(Education Code 51225.3\)](#)

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.

Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the individualized education program (IEP) team for each student with disabilities shall determine whether the student is eligible for exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, and if so, shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. A student with disabilities shall be eligible for the exemption, if the student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

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(cf. 6146.11 - That the student take the alternate assessment aligned 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)

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Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

1. District students are required to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the student complete graduation course requirements state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified above, including the requirements imposed by in Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board.

In addition, 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 high schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or an a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program-(i.e., a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant students that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency) shall be required to complete all-exempted from any graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional district-adopted graduation by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption does 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 into a school by a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student, or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student, and others as required by law, of the availability of the exemption from local graduation requirements 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)~~

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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)~~ (Education Code 51413)

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

~~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.~~

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.

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1.

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~~ U.S. or through online or virtual courses.

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~~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 high 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

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

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3. ~~3.~~ Are veterans who entered the military service of the ~~United States~~ U.S. while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade ~~12~~ 12 in a district school ~~(Education Code 51440)~~

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4. ~~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)

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1. ~~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. ~~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)

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 1600-1651	Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation <u>Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation</u>
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures <u>Uniform complaint procedures</u>
Ed. Code 220	Prohibition of discrimination <u>Prohibition of discrimination</u>
Ed. Code 47612	Average daily attendance in charter school <u>Average daily attendance in charter school</u>
Ed. Code 48200	Compulsory attendance <u>Compulsory attendance</u>
Ed. Code 48204.4	Parents/guardians departing California against their will <u>Parents/guardians departing California against their will</u>
Ed. Code 48412	Certificate of proficiency <u>Certificate of proficiency</u>
Ed. Code 48430	Continuation education schools and classes <u>Continuation education schools and classes</u>
Ed. Code 48645.5	Former juvenile court school students; enrollment <u>Former juvenile court school students; enrollment</u>
Ed. Code 48980	Parent/Guardian notifications <u>Parent/Guardian notifications</u>
Ed. Code 49701	Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children <u>Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children</u>

Ed. Code 51224	Skills and knowledge required for adult life Skills and knowledge required for adult life
Ed. Code 51224.5	Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12 Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12
Ed. Code 51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements Exemption from district graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.2	Course credits Course credits
Ed. Code 51225.3	High school graduation requirements High school graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.31	Exemption for students with disabilities Exemption for students with disabilities
Ed. Code 51225.35	Mathematics course requirements; computer science Mathematics course requirements; computer science
Ed. Code 51225.36	Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation
Ed. Code 51225.5	Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange and terminally ill students Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange and terminally ill students
Ed. Code 51225.6	Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; districts that require health education for graduation Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; districts that require health education for graduation
Ed. Code 51225.9	Courses of study, grades 7 to 12; career technical education Courses of Study, Grades 7 to 12; Career Technical Education
Ed. Code 51226.7	Model curriculum in ethnic studies Model Curriculum in Ethnic Studies
Ed. Code 51228	Course of study; offerings and timely opportunity Course of study; offerings and timely opportunity
Ed. Code 51230	Credit for community emergency response training Credit for community emergency response training
Ed. Code 51240-51246	Exemptions from requirements Exemptions from requirements
Ed. Code 51250-51251	Assistance to military dependents Assistance to military dependents
Ed. Code 51410-51413	Diplomas Diplomas
Ed. Code 51420-51427	High school equivalency certificates High school equivalency certificates
Ed. Code 51430	Retroactive high school diplomas Retroactive high school diplomas

Ed. Code 51440	Credit and granting of diploma to veterans and members of the military service Credit and granting of diploma to veterans and members of the military service
Ed. Code 51450-51455	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
Ed. Code 51744-51749.6	Independent study Independent study
Ed. Code 56390-56392	Recognition for educational achievement; special education Recognition for educational achievement; special education
Ed. Code 60640	California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
Ed. Code 66204	Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria
Ed. Code 67386	Student safety; affirmative consent standard Student safety; affirmative consent standard
Management Resources	Description
Court Decision	O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela) (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452 O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela) (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of Education, High School California Department of Education, High School
Website	University of California, List of Approved A-G Courses University of California, List of Approved A-G Courses
Website	CSBA CSBA

Cross References

Code	Description
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan Local Control And Accountability Plan
0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
4112.2	Certification Certification

4112.2	Certification Certification
5113.2	Work Permits Work Permits
5113.2	Work Permits Work Permits
5126	Awards For Achievement Awards For Achievement
5126	Awards For Achievement Awards For Achievement
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E PDF(2)	Parent/Guardian Notifications Parent/Guardian Notifications
5147	Dropout Prevention Dropout Prevention
6000	Concepts And Roles Concepts And Roles
6011	Academic Standards Academic Standards
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction
6142.2	World Language Instruction World Language Instruction
6142.2	World Language Instruction World Language Instruction
6142.3	Civic Education Civic Education
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6142.6	Visual And Performing Arts Education Visual And Performing Arts Education
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity Physical Education And Activity
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity Physical Education And Activity
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education Comprehensive Health Education
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education Comprehensive Health Education
6142.91	Reading/Language Arts Instruction Reading/Language Arts Instruction
6142.92	Mathematics Instruction Mathematics Instruction
6142.93	Science Instruction Science Instruction
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction History-Social Science Instruction

6143	Courses Of Study Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study Courses Of Study
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145.2	Athletic Competition Athletic Competition
6145.2	Athletic Competition Athletic Competition
6145.6	International Exchange International Exchange
6145.6	International Exchange International Exchange
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.11-E PDF(1)	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.2-E PDF(1)	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6146.4	Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities
6146.4	Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities
6151	Class Size Class Size
6151	Class Size
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses Placement In Mathematics Courses
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses Placement In Mathematics Courses
6155	Challenging Courses By Examination Challenging Courses By Examination
6155	Challenging Courses By Examination Challenging Courses By Examination

6155-E PDF(1)	Challenging Courses By Examination
6158	Independent Study Independent Study
6158	Independent Study Independent Study
6159	Individualized Education Program Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program Individualized Education Program
6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education
6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1-E PDF(1)	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6162.5	Student Assessment Student Assessment
6172.1	Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes
6172.1	Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes
6173	Education For Homeless Children Education For Homeless Children
6173	Education For Homeless Children Education For Homeless Children
6173-E PDF(1)	Education For Homeless Children Education For Homeless Children
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth Education For Foster Youth
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.3	Education For Juvenile Court School Students Education For Juvenile Court School Students
6175	Migrant Education Program Migrant Education Program
6175	Migrant Education Program Migrant Education Program

6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes Weekend/Saturday Classes
6177	Summer Learning Programs Summer Learning Programs
6178	Career Technical Education Career Technical Education
6178	Career Technical Education Career Technical Education
6178.1	Work-Based Learning Work-Based Learning
6178.1	Work-Based Learning Work-Based Learning
6178.2	Regional Occupational Center/Program Regional Occupational Center/Program
6179	Supplemental Instruction Supplemental Instruction
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6184	Continuation Education Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education Continuation Education
6200	Adult Education Adult Education
6200	Adult Education Adult Education
9000	Role Of The Board Role Of The Board