

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Note: The following policy is for use by districts that maintain grades 9-12.

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to ~~obtain a~~ successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma ~~so that they can take advantage of~~ 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

Note: Education Code 51225.3 specifies the courses that a student is required to complete in order to graduate from high school as listed in items #1-6 below.

Pursuant to Education Code 66204, each district that maintains a high school is also required to develop a process for submitting courses to the University of California to ensure that they align with the "a-g" course requirements for college admission.

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)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Three courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

Note: **The following optional paragraph is for use only by districts that require more than two courses in mathematics for graduation and should be deleted by other districts.** Pursuant to Education Code 51225.3 and 51225.35, a district that requires more than two courses in mathematics may award up to one mathematics course credit for an approved computer science course, as defined. Any such course must have been approved by the University of California as a "category c" (mathematics) course in the university's "a-g" course admission criteria; see BP 6143 - Courses of Study.

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. 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*)

Note: Education Code 51225.3 authorizes the Board to include a course in career technical education (CTE) as an alternative to the visual or performing arts or world language course requirement for high school graduation. If the Board chooses to do so, it must, at a regular Board meeting prior to allowing a CTE course as an alternative, notify parents/guardians, students, teachers, and the public of information specified in Education Code 51225.3. In addition, the information must be included in the district's annual notification to parents/guardians pursuant to Education Code 48980; see the accompanying administrative regulation. Districts that do not allow this alternative course requirement should delete references to CTE in item #5 below.

The CTE course may be offered through different means, including a district-operated program, regional occupational center or program, or county office of education program pursuant to a joint powers agreement. See BP/AR 6178 - Career Technical Education and BP 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program for program details pertaining to CTE.

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, including health~~ 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*)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 51225.3, the Board may prescribe additional coursework (e.g., health education, service learning) or other requirements (e.g., portfolios or senior projects) that district students must complete in order to obtain a diploma. If the Board does so, such courses or projects should be listed below.

If the district requires a course in health education for graduation, Education Code 51225.36 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. See BP 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction. In addition, pursuant to Education Code 51225.6, a district that requires a course in health education for graduation is required to include instruction in compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation. See AR 6143 - Courses of Study.

Pursuant to Education Code 51230, if the district requires the completion of community service hours for high school graduation, the district may provide a student with credit towards that requirement for completion of a course in community emergency response training. However, if the district chooses to offer credit for the completion of such a course, the Board is still obligated to notify parents/guardians, students, teachers, and the public of information specified in Education Code 51225.3.

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*(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 for 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 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)*

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

Note: Education Code 51225.3 requires the Board to adopt alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study. See BP/AR 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation.

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** 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.

A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student, ~~or newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program~~ who transfers into the district or between district high schools any time after completing the second year of high school ~~unless~~, or an 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 graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional district-adopted graduation requirements, ~~unless the superintendent~~. This exemption does 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, any such student shall be notified of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)~~

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)

Note: Education Code 51225.1 requires the district to exempt from any district-adopted graduation requirements that are in addition to the state requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 Also see AR 6173 - Education for Homeless Children, AR 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth, AR 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families, AR 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students, and AR 6175 - Migrant Education Program.

Pursuant to Education Code 51225.1, within 30 calendar days of the transfer of a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student, or within 30 days of a student beginning participation in a newcomer program, the district is required to provide notice to the student, the person holding the right to make education decisions for the student, and the student's social worker or probation officer of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. If the district fails to provide that notification, the student will be eligible for the exemption once notified, even if the notification is received after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the foster youth or former juvenile court school student, after the homeless student ceases to be homeless, or after the student no longer meets the definition of a child of a military family, a migrant student, or a student participating in a newcomer program, as applicable.

Education Code 51225.1 also provides that, if an exempted student completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, the district or a district school must not require or request that the student graduate before the end of the fourth year of high school.

Any complaint alleging the district's failure to comply with the requirements of Education Code 51225.1 may be filed using the district's uniform complaint procedures pursuant to 5 CCR 4600-4670. See BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

(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)

Note: Items #1-4 below are **optional** and may be revised to reflect practice.

The district ~~In addition, the district~~ may retroactively grant ~~a~~ high school ~~diploma~~ diplomas to ~~a~~ former ~~student~~ students who ~~was~~: (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.

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 ~~who is an~~ are honorably discharged ~~veteran~~ 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. ~~(Education Code 51430)~~

~~In addition, the district may retroactively grant a high school diplomas to a veteran~~

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

Note: 51430, as amended by AB 1350 (Ch. 66, Statutes of 2020), authorizes districts to award a retroactive diploma under the circumstances described in item #4 below.

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

Note: The following **optional** section reflects the Board's authority to confer honorary high school diplomas pursuant to Education Code 51225.5 and may be revised to reflect district practice.

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)

#### *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~~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-~~4687~~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>

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

PERRIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Perris, California

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