

Instruction**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma so that they can take advantage of 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 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](#))

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 three mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code [51224.5](#))

(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

(cf. [6142.6](#) - *Visual and Performing Arts Education*)

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*)

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 Aide 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*)

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

A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, or child of a military family who transfers into the district any time after completing his/her second year of high school 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 or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of his/her 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 he/she 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*)

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](#))

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. A deceased former student who satisfies these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by his/her next of kin. (Education Code [51430](#))

In addition, the district may grant a diploma to a veteran who entered the military service of the United States while he/she was a district student in grade 12 and who had completed the first half of the work required for grade 12. (Education Code [51440](#))

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

47612 Enrollment in charter school

48200 Compulsory attendance

48412 Certificate of proficiency

EDUCATION CODE

48430 Continuation education schools and classes

EDUCATION CODE (continued)

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; foreign exchange students

51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation

51228 Graduation requirements

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 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>

PERRIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Perris, California

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