

CSBA Sample Board Policy

Instruction

BP 6146.1(a)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

AB 830 (Ch. 641, Statutes of 2017) repealed Education Code 60850-60859, thereby eliminating the California High School Exit Examination as a requirement for high school graduation.

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

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 also is 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. ⁴ Three courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. ³ Two 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 two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

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

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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.

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. Two 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 foreign 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, foreign language, including American Sign Language, or career technical education (CTE) (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.

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)*(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)

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. Also see AR 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 beginning in the 2018-19 school year. See AR 6143 - Courses of Study.

*(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)**(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**

Note: Education Code 51225.1 requires the district to exempt from any district-adopted graduation requirements a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, or, as amended by AB 365 (Ch. 739, Statutes of 2017), child of a military family, who transfers into the district or between district

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high schools any time after completing his/her second year of high school. 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 his/her fourth year of high school. Also see AR 6173 - Education for Homeless Children, AR 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth, AR 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families, and AR 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students.

Pursuant to Education Code 51225.1, within 30 calendar days of the transfer of a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, or child of a military family, the district is required to provide notice to the student 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, as applicable.

Education Code 51225.1 also provides that, if an exempted student completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of his/her fourth year of high school, the district or a district school must not require or request that he/she graduate before the end of his/her 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 4600-4687; see BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

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

Note: Education Code 51413, as added by AB 830 (Ch. 641, Statutes of 2017), retains and renumbers the requirement to grant a diploma to students who previously met all applicable graduation requirements other than the requirement to pass the high school exit examination.

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)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

Note: The following section is ~~optional~~. **Yes**

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: (see next page)

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

47612 Enrollment in charter school
 48200 Compulsory attendance
 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; 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>

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