

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The district strives to offer high school students an educational program which is flexible, demanding, and appropriate to help every student meet the rigor of college and career readiness. This will enable them to take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment. The course of study at comprehensive high schools in the district shall require all pupils to successfully complete the following requirements for high school graduation:

*(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 230 credits (locally adopted) in the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

1. Four courses in English (40 credits) (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)*

2. Two courses in mathematics (20 credits) (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 Integrated Mathematics I. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Integrated 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)

3. Two courses in science, including biological/life (10 credits) and physical sciences (10 credits) (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)*

4. Three courses in social studies, including United States history; world history; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics (30 credits) (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)*

*(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)*

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

5. Ten (10) credits of fine arts, foreign 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.

6. Twenty (20) credits of physical education. Students (grades 10-12) may be exempted from physical education classes when actively participating in interscholastic athletics, marching band, or Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC).

*(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)*

7. Five (5) credits of Health Education.

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

*(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 for Children of Military Families)*

*(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)*

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families by waiving specific course requirements for graduation if the student has satisfactorily completed similar coursework in another district. (Education Code 49701)

*(cf. 6173.2 - Education for Children of Military Families)*

Identified special education students may take an alternative course of study as specified in their individualized education plan to achieve the unit requirements for graduation with a certificate of completion. This certificate is awarded in lieu of the traditional high school diploma.

An alternative to the district's program, which does not include the granting of a district diploma, is receiving a certificate of proficiency by passing the California High School Proficiency Exam.

In cases of documented hardship the principal may waive any specific requirement, except for requirements mandated by the State of California, after consultation with the specific department and guidance council.

**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)

*Legal Reference continued: (see next page)*

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

### 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
- 51410-51412 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
- 60851.5 Suspension of high school exit examination
- 60851.6 Retroactive diploma; completion of all graduation requirements except high school exit examination
- 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/g/hs>
- University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:  
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>