

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 are required to earn 230 credits of classroom instruction or supervised learning activity in grades 9-12. Each semester a student achieves minimum proficiency in a course of study is equal to 5 credits. All approved courses within the current year high school course catalog will be applied toward graduation credit requirements. These must include:

1. 40 Credits in English (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. 20 Credits 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)

Students may be awarded up to 10 mathematics credits 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. 20 Credits in science, including biological and physical sciences  
(Education Code 51225.3)

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45 (cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

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47 4. 30 Credits in social studies, including United States history and  
48 geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in  
49 American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics  
50 (Education Code 51225.3)

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52 (cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

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

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55 5. 10 Credits in visual or performing arts; foreign language, including  
56 American Sign Language; or career technical education (CTE) (Education Code  
57 51225.3)

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59 (cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

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61 6. 5 Credits in career technical education (CTE) aligned to the model  
62 curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.

63

64 (cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

65 (cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

66

67 7. 20 Credits in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise  
68 exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code  
69 51225.3)

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71 (cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

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73 8. 5 Credits in health.

74

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

76 (cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

77

78 9. 80 Credits in electives.

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80 (cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

81

82 Community Service

83

84 Over the course of 4 years, a student must accumulate 40 hours of community  
85 service. Students enrolled less than 4 years will have hours prorated.

86

87 (cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

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89 Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of  
90 some students, the Board shall provide alternative means for the completion of  
91 prescribed courses in accordance with law.

92

93 (cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

94 (cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

95 (cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students  
96 with Disabilities)

97

98 Exemptions and Waivers

99

100 A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of  
101 a military family, migrant student, or newly arrived immigrant student  
102 participating in a newcomer program who transfers into the District any time  
103 after completing the second year of high school shall be required to complete  
104 all graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be  
105 exempt from any additional District-adopted graduation requirements, unless  
106 the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably  
107 able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth  
108 year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer, any such student shall be  
109 notified of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for  
110 it. (Education Code 51225.1)

111

112 (cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

113 (cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

114 (cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

115 (cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

116 (cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

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

118 (cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

119

120 Retroactive Diplomas

121

122 Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 school  
123 year and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of  
124 the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma.

125 (Education Code 51413)

126

127 In addition, the District may retroactively grant high school diplomas to:

128 (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

129

130 1. Persons who departed California against their will while in grade 12 and  
131 did not receive a diploma because the departure interrupted their education,

132 provided that they were in good academic standing at the time of the departure  
133  
134 Persons may be considered to have departed California against their will if they  
135 were in custody of a government agency and were transferred to another state,  
136 were subject to a lawful order from a court or government agency that  
137 authorized their removal from California, were subject to a lawful order and  
138 were permitted to depart California before being removed from California  
139 pursuant to the lawful order, were removed or were permitted to depart  
140 voluntarily pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or departed  
141 due to other circumstances determined by the District that are consistent with  
142 the purposes of Education Code 48204.4.

143  
144 In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances,  
145 the Superintendent or designee shall consider any coursework that may have  
146 been completed outside of the United States or through online or virtual  
147 courses.

148  
149 2. Former students who were interned by order of the federal government  
150 during World War II or who are honorably discharged veterans of World War II,  
151 the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a  
152 District school immediately preceding the internment or military service and did  
153 not receive a diploma because their education was interrupted due to the  
154 internment or military service in those wars

155  
156 Deceased former students who satisfy these conditions may be granted  
157 a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin.

158  
159 3. Veterans who entered the military service of the United States while in  
160 grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work  
161 required for grade 12 in a District school

162  
163 Honorary Diplomas

164  
165 The Board may grant honorary high school diplomas to: (Education Code  
166 51225.5)

167  
168 1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of  
169 study ordinarily required for graduation, and who is returning to the home  
170 country following the completion of one academic school year in the District

171  
172 (cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

173  
174 2. A student who is terminally ill

175

176 The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma  
177 of graduation awarded by the District. (Education Code 51225.5)  
178  
179 Legal Reference:  
180 EDUCATION CODE  
181 47612 Enrollment in charter school  
182 48200 Compulsory attendance  
183 48204.4 Parents/guardians departing California against their will  
184 48412 Certificate of proficiency  
185 48430 Continuation education schools and classes  
186 48645.5 Acceptance of coursework  
187 48980 Required notification at beginning of term  
188 49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children  
189 51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life  
190 51224.5 Algebra instruction  
191 51225.1 Exemption from District graduation requirements  
192 51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits,  
193 retaking of course  
194 51225.3 High school graduation  
195 51225.35 Mathematics course requirements; computer science  
196 51225.36 Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; Districts that require  
197 health  
198 education for graduation  
199 51225.5 Honorary diplomas  
200 51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
201 51228 Graduation requirements  
202 51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements  
203 51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents  
204 51410-51413 Diplomas  
205 51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates  
206 51430 Retroactive high school diplomas  
207 51440 Retroactive high school diplomas  
208 51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma  
209 51745 Independent study restrictions  
210 56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education  
211 66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions  
212 criteria  
213 67386 Student safety; affirmative consent standard  
214 CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5  
215 1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation  
216 4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures  
217 COURT DECISIONS  
218 O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452  
219

Article 6  
Instruction  
BP 6146.1

210 Management Resources:  
211 WEB SITES  
212 CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>  
213 California Department of Education, High School:  
214 <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs>  
215 University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:  
216 <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>  
227  
218 CSBA: (12/16, 12/17) 12/18  
219  
220 Adopted: 5/22/84  
221 Revised: 4/27/99, 6/27/00, 2/26/01, Reviewed: 07/26/05  
222 Revised: