

**Instruction**

BP 6146.1(a)

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Board of Education desires to prepare all students to obtain a diploma of high school graduation to enable them to take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

**Credit and Course Requirements**

~~The credit requirements for graduation from high school shall be 220 credits.~~

To obtain a high school diploma of graduation from high school, students shall complete at least the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

1. **Four** ~~Three~~ courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Two courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

~~At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses, required for completion in grades 9-12, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I.~~ 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)

~~Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework that meets or exceeds state academic content standards shall satisfy the algebra coursework 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)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
4. **Five** ~~Three~~ courses in social studies, including:
  - a. United States history ~~and geography~~
  - b. **One semester course in geography**

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**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

- c. World history, culture, and geography
  - d. One semester course in American government and civics
  - e. One semester course in economics (Education Code 51225.3)
5. One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, ~~or~~ American Sign Language, or career technical education (CTE) (Education Code 51225.3)
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)

The Superintendent or designee may grant an exemption from physical education under the following special circumstances:

- 1. The student is in high school and is engaged in a regular school-sponsored interscholastic athletic program carried on wholly or partially after regular school hours. (Education Code 51242)
  - a. To be eligible to receive an exemption in grades 10, 11 or 12, students must complete one year of Physical Education with a “C” or higher and satisfactorily pass at least five out of six fitness areas of the grade nine California Physical Fitness Test administered in grade 9 (Education Code 51241). Although the exemption fulfills the second year graduation requirement for Physical Education, students will NOT earn five credits for completing a Physical Education course.
  - b. Ninth grade students are ineligible for the Physical Education Exemption. Eligible student requesting exemption from the entire second year of Physical Education must compete in two seasons of a sport (any sport—fall/winter/spring) and submit the Physical Education Exemption Request Form to his/her counselor two weeks prior to the end of the fall/spring semesters.

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.

**Exemptions and Waivers**

A foster youth, homeless student, or former juvenile court school student 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

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## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

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)

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)

### **Certificates of Completion**

~~Students who have passed all the district's course requirements by the end of their senior year but are unable to pass the high school exit exam shall receive a certificate of completion.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students receiving a certificate of completion and the resources that have been offered to such students.~~

### **Retroactive Diplomas**

Until July 31, 2018, any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 school year or a subsequent school year and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma. (Education Code 60851.6)

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. (Education Code 51430)

In addition, the Board may retroactively grant a diploma to a deceased former student who satisfies the above conditions. The diploma shall be received by the deceased student's next of kin. (Education Code 51430)

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### EDUCATION CODE

~~35186 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures~~

~~37252 Supplemental instructional programs~~

~~37254 Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit exam by end of grade 12~~

~~37254.1 Required student participation in supplemental instruction~~

~~47612 Enrollment in charter school~~

~~48200 Compulsory attendance~~

~~48412 Certificate of proficiency~~

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

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 Requirements for 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  
 52378 Supplemental school counseling program  
 56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education  
 60850-60859 ~~High school exit examination~~  
 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  
**CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5**  
 1600-1651 Graduation of pupils 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:****CSBA PUBLICATIONS**

Preparing for the High Stakes of the High School Exit Exam: An Examination of Certificates of Completion, Policy Advisory, September 2005

**WEB SITES**

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, California High School Exit Examination:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>

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>

Policy

adopted: December 8, 2008

revised: February 8, 2016

**SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

San Rafael, California