

**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 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 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. (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)

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

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

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)

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.

### **High School Exit Examination**

~~Each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Code 60851, 60859)~~

~~Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student in grade 7-12 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in Board policy, toward passing the exit exam. (Education Code 37252, 60851)~~

~~Students who have not passed one or both parts of the exit exam by the end of grade 12 shall have the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade 12 or until they have passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first. (Education Code 37254)~~

### **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**

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)

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

### *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*  
48430 *Continuation education schools and classes*  
48645.5 *Acceptance of coursework*  
51224 *Skills and knowledge required for adult life*  
51224.5 *Algebra instruction*  
51225.3 *Requirements for graduation*  
51225.5 *Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students*  
51228 *Graduation requirements*  
51240-51246 *Exemptions from requirements*  
51250-51251 *Assistance to military dependents*  
51410-51412 *Diplomas*  
51420-51427 *High school equivalency certificates*  
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*  
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*

#### 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>