

## Instruction

BP 6146.1(a)

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma ~~to enable them to~~ 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 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**, 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 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. 6011 - Academic Standards)*~~

*(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)

BP 6146.1(b)

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

5. Fifteen units in visual or performing arts, ~~ten-units~~ 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. 6178 - Career Technical Education)*

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

6. Twenty-five units in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3) One quarter (2.5 units) of physical education units are designated for required instruction in Health.

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

7. Student will perform twenty (20) hours of community service and complete 70 units of elective courses.

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

~~*(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)*~~

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

In January 2016, the Santa Clara Unified Board took action calling for all students to have an A-G default enrollment beginning in Fall 2016. The Superintendent or designee shall monitor the schools to ensure that a list of courses in the district which meet the A-G requirements at the University of California will be updated yearly and coordinated through the Educational Services Division.

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)*

BP 6146.1(c)

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth, homeless students, and children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.1 and 49701.

### 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 of Children of Military Families)*

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

### Retroactive Diplomas

~~Until July 31, 2018, a~~Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 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 ~~51413 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. 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)

BP 6146.1(d)

## 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~~ 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  
~~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>

BP 6146.1(d)

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

Policy  
adopted: January 12, 1967  
revised: January 23, 1997  
revised: May, 27, 2014  
revised: April 10, 2014  
revised: May 12, 2016  
revised:

CSBA MANUAL MAINTENANCE SERVICE  
December 2017