

BP 6146.1 Instruction

High School Graduation Requirements **STAFF RECOMMENDATION – KEEP THIS CURRENT POLICY – BUT USE YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED AREAS FROM NEW CSBA POLICY**

The Board of Education desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma to enable them to 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](#))

(cf. [6142.91](#) - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Three courses in mathematics (Education Code [51225.3](#))

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the three mathematics courses required for completion in grades 9-12, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I and two courses in Mathematics at the High School Diploma Program at the Martinez Adult School. (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 three 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. [6142.92](#) - Mathematics Instruction)

(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](#))

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. [6142.94](#) - History-Social Science Instruction)

5. Two courses in visual or performing arts, 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. [6142.2](#) - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

(cf. [6142.6](#) - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

(cf. [6178](#) - Career Technical Education)

(cf. [6178.2](#) - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

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](#))

A permanent exemption from this section, as allowed by Education Code Section 51241, shall be granted for the purposes of graduation from the High School Diploma Program at Martinez Adult School for a student 16 years or older who has been enrolled in the 10th grade for one academic year or longer.

A student enrolled in Vicente Martinez who has completed the 10th grade or is 16 years old may be exempt from this requirement.

Starting with the Class of 2013, Health will be integrated into the Physical Education curriculum and 5 credits of Computer Applications will be eliminated at AHS, Vicente and Briones.

To obtain a diploma of graduation from high school, students shall also complete the following for each school indicated:

Alhambra High School

90 elective credits

15 hours of community service

Total Credits Required for Graduation: 240

Vicente Martinez High School

2 semesters in Life Long Learning

50 elective credits

12 hours of community service

Total Credits Required for Graduation: 210

Briones School

2 semesters in Life Long Learning

50 elective credits

12 hours of community service

Total Credits Required for Graduation: 210

High School Diploma Program at Martinez Adult School

50 elective credits

1 semester of health

1 semester of Career Education

Total Credits Required for Graduation: 180

(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, 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 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](#))~~

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. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)

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)

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. 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](#))~~

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)

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)

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

EDUCATION CODE (continued)

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/gs/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g

Courses: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

Policy MARTINEZ UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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