

## **Instruction**

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to complete the high school course of study successfully and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

#### **Credit and Course Requirements for Students for Class of 2022 and Thereafter**

In order to graduate from the district, students in comprehensive high schools must earn a minimum of two hundred-twenty (220) credits, in grades nine (9) through twelve (12), complete all required courses and a Validating Experience (as defined in this regulation), demonstrating College and Career Readiness.

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete the coursework identified below in grades 9 – 12. Courses taken in EGUSD Middle Schools that have the same course codes and requirements as high school courses shall be granted high school credits toward graduation. Grades for such classes will not be counted toward high school grade point average.

Continuation high school and comprehensive high school students will have different sets of credit and course requirements for graduation. Continuation high school graduation requirements are specified later in this document.

Specific credit and course requirements for comprehensive high school students are:

1. Forty (40) credits of English.
2. Thirty-five (35) credits of social science including World Geography; United States History; World History; American Government, and Economics.
3. Twenty (20) credits of Physical Education, unless the student has been exempted pursuant to the Education Code or effective July 1, 2007, is mandated to enroll in additional Physical Education classes due to failure to meet state fitness standards.
4. Thirty (30) credits of Mathematics\* including Math I, and thirty (30) credits of Science, including Life and Physical Sciences; **or** Forty (40) credits of Mathematics\*, including Math I, and twenty (20) credits of Science, including Life and Physical Sciences.
5. Ten (10) credits of World Language\* and ten (10) credits of Visual and Performing Arts; **or** twenty (20) credits of the same World Language\*.
6. Five (5) credits of Health.
7. Five (5) credits of Technology\*.
8. Thirty-Five (35) elective credits.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

9. Collectively, 220 total credits under No. 1 through 8 above.

\*Students may demonstrate proficiency in identified subject areas through specific district proctored assessments.

**Validating Experience**

EGUSD believes it is important for students to validate their educational experience and demonstrate College and Career Readiness. In order for students to demonstrate College and Career Readiness, and graduate from EGUSD, students must pass ten (10) credits in one (1) of the following in their Senior Year:

- AP/IB Course;
- JROTC Senior Course;
- AVID Senior Seminar;
- Math Course; or
- Career Technical Education (CTE) Capstone Course;

Alternatively, seniors may also demonstrate College and Career Readiness and graduate by the following:

- Meeting UC/CSU A – G requirements; or
- Earning a Seal of Biliteracy.

**Credits for Work Experience**

Seniors may enroll in a maximum of twenty (20) credits of work experience (ten [10] per semester) in their junior or senior year.

Students may earn up to a maximum of forty (40) credits of work experience during their junior and senior year combined.

**Credits for Teachers' Aides**

1. Schools shall limit the number of teachers' aides (TA) per teacher/department
2. Unless approved by the principal, students may not earn more than ten (10) TA credits during high school.
3. Unless approved by the site principal, only juniors and seniors may work as TA's.
4. Teachers' aides and work experience may not be taken concurrently.

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

### **Credits for Middle School Coursework**

Students shall receive credits toward graduation for EGUSD Middle School courses that have the same course codes and requirements as EGUSD high school courses. Grades for such courses shall not be counted toward high school grade point average.

### **Continuation High School Graduation Requirements**

The district's credit guidelines for continuation high school operate on the philosophy that students will earn credits through satisfactory completion of course objectives as demonstrate in coursework and assessments assigned by classroom teachers. The special nature of continuation education also provides the opportunity for students to earn credits through completion of project contracts. The issuance of credits and the corresponding credit options are provided as a direction to site administrators and teachers. Granting of any credit in variance with the credit guidelines must be authorized in advance by written approval of the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education and site principal.

Specific credit and course requirements for continuation students in the class of 2022 and thereafter are:

English: 40 Credits

Mathematics\*: 30 Credits (includes Math 1)

Life Science: 10 Credits

Physical Science: 10 Credits

US History: 10 Credits

World History: 10 Credits

American Government: 5 Credits

Economics: 5 Credits

World Geography: 5 Credits

Physical Education: 20 Credits

World Language\*: 10 Credits,

and/or 10 Credits Visual/Performing Arts,

and/or 10 Credits Career Technical Education

Health: 5 Credits

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

Technology\*: 5 Credits

Electives: 55 credits

Total credits: 220

\*Students may demonstrate proficiency in identified subject areas through specific district proctored assessments.

*(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)*

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 from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements**

District students are required to complete graduation course requirements specified above, including the requirements imposed by Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board. However, a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, shall be exempted from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption shall not apply if 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 the fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student of the availability of the exemption and whether the student 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)*

*(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)*

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)**Retroactive Diplomas**

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)

In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Departed California against their will while in grade 12 and did not receive a diploma because the departure interrupted their education, provided that they were in good academic standing at the time of the departure

Persons may be considered to have departed California against their will if they were in custody of a government agency and were transferred to another state, were subject to a lawful order from a court or government agency that authorized their removal from California, were subject to a lawful order and were permitted to depart California before being removed from California pursuant to the lawful order, were removed or were permitted to depart voluntarily pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or departed due to other circumstances determined by the district that are consistent with the purposes of Education Code 48204.4.

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

2. Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district school immediately preceding the internment or military service and did not receive a diploma because their education was interrupted due to the internment or military service in those wars

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

3. Are veterans who entered the military service of the United States while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school
4. Were in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year as of March 1, 2020, and were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)**Honorary Diplomas**

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to: (Education Code 51225.5)

1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of study ordinarily required for graduation and who is returning to the student's home country following the completion of one academic school year in the district

(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

2. A student who is terminally ill

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district. (Education Code 51225.5)

**Legal Reference:****EDUCATION CODE**

47612 Enrollment in charter school

48200 Compulsory attendance

48204.4 Parents/guardians departing California against their will

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 Student 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

51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation

51228 Graduation requirements

51230 Credit for community emergency response training

51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements

51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents

51410-51413 Diplomas

51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

- 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
- 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
- 4600-4670 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

Adopted: January \_\_, 2022

**ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Elk Grove, California**