

Berkeley USD

Board Policy

High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

Instruction

The Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

Graduation Requirements

To graduate from Berkeley High School, a student must complete the twelfth grade in that school and 220 semester credits of work, 140 of which must be completed in grades ten through twelve.

Semester Credits

Five semester credits shall be earned in each period completed each term.

Subjects Required for Graduation

The subjects required for graduation shall be:

1. English -Forty (40) credits, eight (8) semester courses
Three (3) one-year courses (English 1A/1B, World Lit, American Lit)
Two (2) one-semester courses (English electives)
2. History - Thirty (30) semester credits, six (6) semester courses
Two (2) one-year courses (World History, U.S. History)
Two (2) one-semester courses (American Government and Economics)
3. Science - Twenty (20) semester credits, four (4) semester courses
One (1) one-year course of study in a Physical Science
One (1) one-year course of study in a Biological Science
4. Social Living - Five (5) semester credits, one semester
5. Mathematics - Twenty (20) semester credits, four (4) semester courses

Beginning in the 2003-2004 school year, 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.

Completion of algebra coursework in grades 7-8 shall not exempt a student from the requirements to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12 (Education Code 51224.5)

6. Physical Education - Twenty (20) semester credits, two (2) years.
One year, ten (10) semester credits must be completed in grade 9.

If a student is involved in an after-school interscholastic sport, the student may earn a maximum of five Physical Education credits per semester which meets the ninth grade requirements

Any student who participates on a state or nationally sponsored competitive sports activity can request a waiver of the Physical Education requirement from the Superintendent or designee. Should a waiver be granted, the coach and/or supervisor of the sport will be required to sign an assurance that the student is meeting state physical education standards and competencies through participation in the activity. Any student receiving a waiver is still required to earn the total number of credits required for graduation (220). Waivers must be requested annually at least four weeks before the beginning of the school year.

7. A language other than English, including American Sign Language, or Visual or Performing Arts, or Career Technical Education - Ten (10) semester credits, one year

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a course in career technical education shall be aligned to the career technical model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.

Transfer Students

1. Transfer students are expected to spend a year at Berkeley High prior to graduation.
2. Students who transfer into Berkeley High for the senior year are expected to meet the graduation requirements of their former high school.

Ethnic Studies/High School Graduation Requirement

1. Requirement: Effective with the freshman class of the 1991-1992 academic school years, the Board established a policy that a one-semester course in Ethnic Studies shall constitute a high school graduation requirement for the district.

2. Definition: An Ethnic Studies course is defined as an academic comparative analysis of the historical and contemporary experiences of the major racial groups in the United States, the Berkeley Unified School District, and Berkeley High School. The purpose of the course will be to stress cross-cultural understanding and the breakdown of racial stereotypes. Staff and students will design the course.

3. Course Design: This course shall be designed to enable and encourage ninth grade students to understand and appreciate racial, ethnic and cultural differences among members of the community. Staff and students designing the course may consider the use of class discussion, creative writing, and similar techniques directed toward exploring the personal attitudes of students in the course.

Adult Education

Adult Education students who fulfill the district's graduation requirements (excluding Physical Education) shall receive a diploma of high school graduation.

Alternative Means for Completion

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.

Exit Exam for the Classes of 2006 and Later

Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, 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 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in Board policy, toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code 37252, 60851)

A student meeting all high school graduation requirements with the exception of the California High School Exit Exam may be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony at the discretion of the principal and the Board if (a) the student has taken the exit examination each time it was offered with no more than one exception while he/she was enrolled in B.U.S.D., and (b) the student has been enrolled in an after-school CAHSEE class and has attended 85% of the time.

Policy BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: May 5, 2004 Berkeley, California

revised: March 15, 2006

revised: December 11, 2013