

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Trustees 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. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(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. Three courses in English plus one additional course in English (total of 40 credits)
(Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Three courses in mathematics (total of 30 credits), or two courses in mathematics and successful completion of Algebra II (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)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences plus an additional course in biological or physical science (total of 30 credits) (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. 6142.93 - History-Social Science Instruction)

BP 6146.1(b)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

5. One course in Visual/Performing Arts. One Course in Foreign Language. One course in EITHER Visual/Performing Arts OR Foreign Language (total of 30 credits).

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.

(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)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

7. One semester of Health Education (5 credits)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

8. Electives (total of 35 credits)

9. A minimum of 60 hours of Community Service

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

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)

The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth or children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.3 and 49701.

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6173.2 - Education for Children of Military Families)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

High School Exit Examination

As a condition of high school graduation, each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics unless he/she receives a waiver or exemption. (Education Code 60851, 60859)

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student in grade 7-12 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in BP 6179 - Supplemental Instruction, toward passing the exit exam. (Education Code 37252, 60851)

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

(cf. 6177 - Summer School)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

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)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

In addition to intensive remedial instruction, the district shall offer students who have passed all state and local graduation requirements except one or both parts of the exit exam the following options for two years beyond their regular senior year or until they pass the exam, whichever occurs first:

Participation in summer school or other interventions available to current students.

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter Schools)

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students who have fulfilled all local and state graduation requirements except for the passage of the exit exam and the resources that have been offered to such students.

BP 6146.1(d)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

Certificates of Scholastic Achievement or Completion

The district will offer an alternative Certification of Scholastic Achievement to those students who have completed all state and district requirements for high school graduation **except** for successful passage of the California High School Exit Examinations (Language Arts and Mathematics). A student must have attempted to pass the test in all of the administrations offered. If not all test administrations were attempted by a student, verification from authorized school site administrators must be on record excusing the student from having attempted those administrations of the test. In addition, the student must have fully participated in formal remediation sessions offered to him/her by the school, the district, or the County Office of Education, or show evidence of equivalent formal private tutoring in the applicable subject. If the student does not fully participate in remediation sessions offered or provide evidence of equivalent formal tutoring, verification from authorized school site administrators must be on record excusing the student from having fully participated in remediation sessions offered.

The district will offer an alternative Certification of Completion to those students who have completed Special Day Class courses titled “Basic”: (Basic English, Basic Math, etc.) that count only toward elective credit. Parents will be advised that students who do not take mainstream English, mathematics and other academic classes in the specified subject areas required for graduation will be eligible to earn a Certificate of Completion only.

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 Scholastic Achievement.

Students who have not met all district and state graduation requirements but have met all their IEP goals and objectives and attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in their IEPs, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services will 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)

BP 6146.1(e)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

The district also 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)

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

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*
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*
51225.3 *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 students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation*
COURT DECISIONS
O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

Management Resources: (see next page)

BP 6146.1(f)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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>

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Policy

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SCOTTS VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Scotts Valley, California