

## 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. 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. 2. Three courses in mathematics (total of 30 credits), or two courses in mathematics and successful completion of Integrated Math 3 (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 Integrated Math 1. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Math 1 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. 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)*

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**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

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)*

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

5. One course in visual or performing arts. ~~One course in Foreign, foreign language, including American Sign Language. One course in EITHER Visual/Performing Arts OR Foreign Language OR Career Technical Education, 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)

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

7. One semester of Health Education (5 credits)

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

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

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

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

8. Electives (total of 35 credits)

9. A minimum of 60 hours of Community Service

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

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

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

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

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

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

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

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

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, 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)

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*(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)*

~~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~~Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 ~~school year or a subsequent~~through 2014-15 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 ~~60851-651413~~)

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

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

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)

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## 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

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## ~~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/g/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:

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

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(continued)

Regulation

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May 8, 2012

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August 22, 2017

February 13, 2018

**SCOTTS VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Scotts Valley, California