

# **Santa Rosa City Schools**

## **Board Policy**

### **High School Graduation Requirements**

BP 6146.1

#### **Instruction**

The Governing Board 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**

Beginning with the class of 2022, to obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete 220 credits in the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

a. 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 (meets the UC/CSU “a” requirement; and a one-semester course in economics (meets the UC/CSU “g” requirement) (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

b. Four courses in English (meets the UC/CSU “b” requirement) (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

c. Three courses in mathematics (meet the UC/CSU “c” requirement) (Education Code 51225.3) At least one Mathematics course shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Integrated Mathematics I. The two additional years of Mathematics must exceed the content standards of Integrated Mathematics 1. (Meets the UC/CSU “c” requirement) Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Integrated Mathematics I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

(cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)

d. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (meets the UC/CSU “d” requirement)(Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

e. Two courses in a Language Other Than English. The first-year of Language Other Than English may be met prior to high school; however, credits will not count towards the 220-credit requirement. (meets the UC/CSU “e” requirement) A student whose primary language is designated other than English is exempt from the core graduation requirement of two years of a Language Other than English course, as long as their formal instruction in the Language Other Than English took place after the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. A student may receive a waiver from the two-year Language Other Than English requirement due to a specific learning disability, if it is clearly stated in his/her IEP or state standardized test results show a need for intensive academic intervention. (Please see AR 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements - World Language.)

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)f. One course in visual or performing arts (meets the UC/CSU “f” requirement (Education Code 51225.3)

g. Electives. At least one course from an approved “g” elective. One year of Career and Technical Education is recommended. 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. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

#### Additional Graduation Requirements

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)

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

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

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

An additional fifty credits of electives, to be chosen by the student and parents from the course offerings listed in the College and Career Readiness Guide

#### Alternative Credits Toward Graduation

#### Specialist Certificate

A Specialist Certification is a path to a college and career future that integrates a-g courses, college courses, work based learning, and linked learning specialty areas. Completion of Specialist Certification leads to meeting most of the a-g requirements, graduation from high

school, and earns a Specialist Certification in a key industry sector.

Students begin the Specialist Certification in grades 11 or 12. Students completing a Specialist Certification will still meet the 220 credits graduation requirement; however, integrated with industry sector CTE/VAPA courses. Students may participate in dual enrollment at Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma State University, or other community colleges and universities with approved agreements, mentorships, pre-internship, and pre-approved work based learning. Santa Rosa City Schools 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students may petition to participate in a Specialist Certificate at their school or at a school other than the school where they are enrolled.

### Alternative Education

If an administrator so recommends, an alternate 180 credit course of study is available for students at Ridgway Continuation High School, or the Individualized Education Program Team can determine that an alternate course of study may be available. For students who were enrolled at the alternative high schools known as Small Necessary Schools. Notwithstanding the foregoing, this alternate 180 course of study for students who attended Small Necessary Schools expires at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. This option exists to permit these students to graduate within a four year time frame and with the same assurances they received when they enrolled in the Small Necessary Schools before such schools were eliminated and replaced with programs at each school site which support graduation. In addition to satisfying the CAHSEE requirement, these students complete the following course of study for a high school diploma.

(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)

(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)

#### 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 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 SANTA ROSA CITY SCHOOLS

adopted: April 9, 2008 Santa Rosa, California

revised: November, 9, 2011

revised: May 23, 2012

revised: January 16, 2013

revised: February 26, 2014

revised: May 24, 2017

revised: June 13, 2018