

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education 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.

In order to be graduated from high school, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. Earn 220 semester credits in Grades 9-12; each course is valued at five credits, a year equals two courses.
2. Pass four years of English in Grades 9-12 in an integrated reading and writing curriculum. This requirement is equal to 40 semester credits.
3. Pass three years of mathematics with at least two years (20 credits) to be taken in Grades 9-12. Up to 10 semester credits for Algebra I taken in the 7th or 8th grade may be applied to meet this requirement. At least one mathematics course, or a combination of two mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I. If any student completes coursework in grades 7 through 12 that meets or exceeds state academic content standards for algebra, those courses shall apply toward satisfying this mathematics requirement. (Education Code 51224.5) This requirement is equal to 30 semester credits.
4. Pass two years of science in Grades 9-12; one year must be a life science; one year must be a physical science. This requirement is equal to 20 semester credits.
5. Pass three years of social studies in Grades 9-12 including two courses of world history; two courses of U.S. history, or its equivalent; one course in economics; one course of U.S. government. This requirement is equal to 30 semester credits.
6. Pass one year of visual or performing arts, speech, debate, or one year of foreign language, American Sign Language. This requirement is equal to 10 semester credits.
7. Pass four courses of Physical Education, two one of which are to be taken in Grade 9. This requirement is equal to 20 semester credits.
8. Pass an additional year-long course of Freshman Seminar that includes California content standards for health education. Freshman Seminar shall also provide a meaningful and substantial common learning experience that includes a focus on American cultures and ethnic studies. This entire requirement is equal to ten credits.

For students who enroll in the District after grade 9, this local graduation requirement shall be waived. However, students who enroll after grade 9 will need to provide evidence of meeting a Health course requirement at his/her previous district or satisfy this requirement prior to graduation from SMMUSD.

9. Pass an additional course(s) from a list of Board approved courses that meet an American cultures and ethnic studies requirement. This requirement is equal to ten credits and is to commence with the class of 2024.
10. All courses used to satisfy graduation requirements shall be approved by the Board and reviewed and re-adopted at least every four years. Additional graduation requirements

must be approved by the Board.

~~Unless otherwise noted, these requirements are effective with the graduation class of 2007.~~

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.

Exemption and Waivers

~~A foster youth, homeless student, 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)~~

~~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.~~

~~* Graduation requirements listed above equal 155 semester credits. 65 semester are available for elective courses.~~

High School Exit Exam

~~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)~~

~~Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student in grades 7 – 12 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in Board Policy 6179 – Supplemental Instruction, toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code 37252, 60851)~~

~~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)~~

~~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 by allowing the students to take CAHSEE preparation courses at Olympic High School (if age 18 or under), or Adult Education Center for two years beyond their regular senior year or until they pass the exam, whichever occurs first.~~

~~The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students who have fulfilled all local and state graduation requirements.~~

Certification of Completion

~~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 examination shall 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

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)

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)

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

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
51410-51413 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
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 MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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