

High School Graduation Requirements

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.

Course Requirements (Education Code 51225.3)

To obtain a high school diploma, students in the class of 2015 through the class of 2017 shall complete at least 210 credits in the prescribed course of study in grades 9-12. Beginning with the class of 2018, students shall complete at least 220 credits in the prescribed course of study in grades 9-12. Each course is considered as being a year in duration unless otherwise indicated.

1. Four courses in English (40 credits).
2. Two courses in mathematics (20 credits). Beginning with the class of 2018, students will be required to complete three courses in mathematics (30 credits) and beginning with the class of 2019 students will be required to complete four courses in mathematics (40 credits).

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 1 to meet the State graduation requirement. (Education Code 41224.5).

Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework that meets or exceed 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).

Students in the class of 2018 and beyond, while encouraged to take rigorous a-g courses in their junior and senior year, may take applied math courses aligned to a career pathway/industry need to meet the third and fourth year math requirement.

Beginning with the Class of 2018, students that are enrolled in a Pre-Calculus or higher math course as a junior, do not have to take a fourth year of math.

Beginning with the Class of 2018, students may take any computer science or Project lead the Way (PLTW) computer science course to meet their local math requirement for graduation.

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (20 credits).

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 (30 credits).
5. One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language, including American Sign Language (10 credits).
6. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (20 credits).
7. A minimum of seventy elective credits (70 credits).

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 52215.1 and 49701.

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

High School Exit Examination

Note: Education Code [60851.5](#), as added by SB 172 (Ch. 572, Statutes of 2015), provides that the administration of the California High School Exit Examination and the requirement that each student completing grade 12 successfully pass the exam as a condition of receiving a diploma or graduating from high school are suspended for the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 school years.

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).

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

37252 Supplemental instructional programs

37254 Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass the exit exam by end of grade 12

37254.1 Required student participation in supplemental instruction
47612 Enrollment in charter school
48200 Compulsory attendance
48430 Continuation education schools and classes
48645.5 Acceptance of coursework
48980 Required notification of beginning of term
49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
51224.5 Algebra instruction
51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements
51225.3 Graduation requirements
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents
51410-51412 Diplomas
51745 Independent study restrictions
60850-60859 High school exit examination
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 admission criteria.
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation

Adopted: January 18, 2000
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March 4, 2008
January 19, 2010
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