

Alternative Credits Toward Graduation

In order to meet individual student needs and encourage all students to complete their high school education, the Governing Board desires to provide flexibility in the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

The Board shall actively involve parents/guardians, administrators, teachers, and students in helping the district develop alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study required for graduation. (Education Code 51225.3)

As an alternative to completing the course requirements for high school graduation, students may fulfill one or more of the course requirements through the following:

1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies through challenging courses by examination. (Education Code 51225.3) Opportunities to demonstrate skills and competencies shall include, but not be limited to, challenging a course through successful completion of a district-developed examination which covers course objectives. The district shall not use results from the General Educational Development test or other state or national tests for this purpose.
2. Supervised work experience or other outside school experience in accordance with Education Code 51760.3 and 5 CCR 1635 (Education Code 51225.3)
3. Career technical education classes offered in high schools (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs (Education Code 51225.3)
5. Interdisciplinary study (Education Code 51225.3)
6. Independent study (Education Code 51225.3)
7. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution (Education Code 48800, 51225.3)
8. Private instruction in accordance with 5 CCR 1631
9. Correspondence instruction from a California university or college accredited for teacher training in accordance with 5 CCR 1633 (Education Code 51740 - 51741) which requires the district to receive authorization from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to permitting students to enroll in such courses for credit.
10. For credit toward the district's physical education requirement, participation in district interscholastic athletic programs carried on wholly or partially after regular school hours. (Education Code 51242) A student shall be eligible to satisfy graduation

requirements in this manner only if the interscholastic program entails a comparable amount of time and physical activity.

11. For credit toward the district's foreign language requirement, foreign language studies successfully completed in a private school in accordance with 5 CCR 1632 (Education Code 51243)

Upon receiving advance, written application by the student or his/her parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall determine whether completion of the proposed alternative means would satisfy course requirements for graduation and what documentation shall be required, if any, to verify the students' successful completion. The Superintendent or designee shall make the final determination as to whether the student's completion of an alternative means is sufficient to satisfy the district's graduation requirements.

As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall determine the grade to be assigned to students for the completion of any of the above alternative means. When a grade is assigned by a private school, postsecondary institution, or other educational institution for completion of coursework, that same grade shall be awarded by the district provided that the Superintendent or designee has determined the alternative course to be substantially equivalent to a district course.

Legal Reference

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of Governing boards
 3516.1 Broad authority of school districts
 48412 Certificate of proficiency
 48645.5 Course credit, juvenile court schools
 48800-48802 Attendance at community college; advanced education
 51220 Areas of study; grades 7-12
 51225.3 Requirements for graduation
 51240-51246 Exemptions from requirement
 51420-51427 General Educational Development test
 51740-51741 Authority to provide instruction by correspondence
 51745-51749.3 Independent Study
 51760-51769.5 Work experience education
 52300-52499.66 Career technical education

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1600-1635 Alternative credit
 10070-10075 Work experience education
 11500-11508 Regional occupational centers and programs
 11520-11523 Proficiency examination and certificate
 11700-11703 Independent study

UNITED STATES CODES, TITLE 20

2301-2414 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006
 Management Resources

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

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