

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUBJECT: High School Graduation Requirements  
Board Policy # 6146.1

Enclosures: One

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CATEGORY: Superintendent's Item

Reason for Board  
Consideration: Action

Date: March 1, 2011

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**BACKGROUND:**

Board Policy #6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements is being revised to address budget reduction recommendations. Pursuant to Education Code 51225.3, the Governing Board may prescribe additional coursework or projects district students must complete in order to obtain a high school diploma over and above what is required by the State. If the Board does so, such courses or projects must be listed in the board policy. Long Beach Unified School District has implemented this provision, requiring students to complete a one semester course in health education, demonstrate computer proficiency by taking a prescribed course in middle or high school or by demonstrating proficiency on a district computer literacy test and to complete 40 hours of service learning to demonstrate civic responsibility, enhanced awareness of career opportunities and an understanding of the relevance of the high school curriculum to the real world.

Due to the budget reduction recommendation, it is recommended that the graduation requirements no longer include the local graduation requirements of the one semester course in health, the coursework requirement to demonstrate computer proficiency, and the 40 hours of service learning beginning with the Class of 2015. To achieve a budget savings, it is further recommended that the Board reduce the total number of credits required to attain a high school diploma from 220 to 210 beginning with the Class of 2015.

Recommended revisions to this policy are reflected in bold print or strikeouts.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt revised Board Policy #6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements.

Prepared by:

Recommended by:

Christine Dominguez  
Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum, Instruction &  
Professional Development

Christopher Steinhauser  
Superintendent of Schools

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 post-secondary education and/or employment.

1. Course Requirements (Education Code 51225.3)

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete at least 220 credits in the prescribed course of study in grades 9-12. ~~with each course being one year unless otherwise specified.~~

**Beginning with the class of 2015, students shall complete at least 210 credits in the prescribed course of study in grades 9-12. Each course is considered as being a year in duration unless otherwise indicated.**

- a. Four courses in English - (40 credits)
- b. Two courses in mathematics – (20 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 1-2. Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework that meets or exceeds 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.

- c. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences – (20 credits)
- d. 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)
- e. One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language or American Sign Language – (10 credits)
- f. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code – (20 credits)

(cf. 6142.7 Physical Education)

- g. A minimum of seventy elective credits - (70 credits)

2. Board Requirements (Education Code 51225.3 (a) (2)) – **Class of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014**

- a. One semester course of Health Education – (5 credits)
- b. Demonstration of computer literacy in grades 6-12 by taking an approved technology course or by demonstrating proficiency on a district computer literacy test

- c. Completion of 40 hours of service learning to demonstrate civic responsibility, enhanced awareness of career opportunities and an understanding of the relevance of the high school curriculum to the real world

**Beginning with the Class of 2015, students will not be required to complete the local Board requirements for Health, computer literacy and service learning hours to receive a high school diploma.**

Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the Board shall provide alternate means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

(cf. 6145.11 Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

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.

(cf. 6173.1 Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6173.2 Education for Children of Military Families)

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)

(cf. 6162.52 High School Exit Exam)

(cf. 6146.4 Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

(cf. 6159 Individualized Education Plans)

Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student in grade 7-12 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in BP 6179-Supplemental Instruction toward passing the exit exam. (Education Code 37252, 60851)

**(cf. 6177 Summer School)**

**(cf. 6179 Supplemental Instruction)**

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)

(cf. 1312.4 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedure)

(cf. 5145.6 Parental Notification)

(cf. 6164.2 Guidance/Counseling Services)

In addition to intensive remedial instruction, the district shall offer students who have passed all state and local graduation requirements except for passage of one or both parts of the exit exam the following options beyond their regular senior year until they pass the exit exam or for up to two consecutive academic years, whichever comes first:

- ~~a. Enrollment in a comprehensive high school limited to the Evening High School Program only.~~
- a. Enrollment in an independent study program limited to the Educational Partnership High School Program (EPHS).
- b. Enrollment in an adult secondary program; School for Adults.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students who have fulfilled all local and state graduation requirements except for the passage of the exit exam and the resources that have been offered to each student.

#### Legal Reference

##### EDUCATION CODE

35186 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures  
 37252 Supplemental instructional programs  
 37254 Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass 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  
 51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life  
 51224.5 Algebra instruction  
 51225.3 Requirements for graduation  
 51228 Graduation requirements  
 51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements  
 51250-51251 Assistance to Military dependents  
 51410-51412 Diplomas  
 51745 Independent study restrictions  
 52378 Supplemental school counseling program  
 60850-60859 High school exit exam  
 66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria  
 CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5  
 1600-1651 Graduation of pupils from grade 12 and credit toward graduation

Adopted: January 18, 2000

Revised: May 4, 2004

March 4, 2008

January 19, 2010

**March 1, 2011**

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUBJECT: Service Learning  
Board Policy #6142.4

Enclosures: One

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CATEGORY: Superintendent's Item

Reason for Board  
Consideration: Action

Date: March 1, 2011

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**BACKGROUND:**

In 2003 the Governing Board approved the graduation requirement of the completion of 40 hours of Service Learning to demonstrate civic responsibility, enhanced awareness of career opportunities and an understanding of the relevance of the high school curriculum to the real world. Students have transitioned from community service to service learning, where their service was more closely linked to the content and skills they were learning in coursework. Teachers have transitioned from the assignment of hours to the embedding of service into their curriculum.

The attached new Board Policy #6142.4 reflects the most current practice of service learning as an instructional strategy in coursework and in Smaller Learning Communities/Pathways student outcomes and includes integrated problem-based projects. This new board policy replaces the 40 hours of service graduation requirement.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Board Policy # 6142.4 Service Learning.

Prepared by:

Recommended by:

Christine Dominguez  
Deputy Superintendent  
Curriculum, Instruction &  
Professional Development

Christopher Steinhauser  
Superintendent of Schools

Service Learning

The Governing Board recognizes that service learning can enhance academic outcomes, help students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become informed and responsible citizens, and aid in individual career development. Service learning experiences may also motivate students by providing them the opportunity to apply their studies to school and community needs and showing them that they can make a contribution to their community through involved citizenship.

## Service Learning

The Board supports service learning instructional strategies as integral components of the district's curriculum. The Board encourages staff to collaborate with local public and nonprofit agencies in order to develop service learning activities that meet educational objectives, align with state and local academic standards, and address current community needs.

The Deputy Superintendent or designee shall develop a service learning plan which:

1. Integrates service learning into one or more of the core academic areas at each grade span (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) and includes instructional formats planned by teachers and students
2. Integrates service learning into Smaller Learning Communities/Pathways student outcomes and includes integrated problem-based projects
3. Ensures that the service learning opportunities offered by the district help meet identified community needs and include a balance of on-campus and off-campus activities
4. Involves administrators, students, teachers, parents/guardians, and community members in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the district's plan, including a determination as to how projects will be evaluated as well as how supervision and transportation issues will be addressed

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide the Board with regular reports on the implementation of the plan and its effectiveness in meeting the district's goals for service learning.

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

## Notifications

Parents/guardians shall receive information about the service learning or community service opportunities offered by the district and their benefits for both the community and the student. The district shall ask parents/guardians to acknowledge this information and provide consent before their child participates in any off-campus service activities.

## Legal Reference:

### EDUCATION CODE

233.5 Teaching of principles

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

37220.6 Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning

51210 Areas of study, grades 1-6

51220 Areas of study, grades 7-12

51745 Independent study

### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12501-12682 National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993

### COURT DECISIONS

Steirer et al v. Bethlehem School District, (1993) 987 F.2d 989

## Management Resources:

### WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, Service Learning: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/sl>

Learn and Serve America: <http://www.learnandserve.org>

National Service Learning Clearinghouse: <http://www.servicelearning.org>

Youth Service California: <http://www.yscal.org>

Adopted: March 1, 2011

Long Beach Unified School District