

Sacramento City USD

Board Policy

High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

Instruction

Because graduation from high school provides students with opportunities for postsecondary education and or employment, the Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation.

(cf. 0420.3 - School-Based Student Motivation and Maintenance Program)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Course Requirements

To obtain a diploma of graduation from high school, students shall complete at least 225 credits including the following course credits in grades 9 through 12, with each course being ten credits per year unless otherwise specified: (Education Code 51225.3)

1. Forty credits in English

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts)

2. Twenty credits in mathematics, including Integrated Math 1 and Integrated Math 2. Completion, prior to grade 9, of high school math coursework that meets or exceeds academic content standards shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9 - 12. (Education Code 51224.5)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

3. Twenty credits in science, including biological/life and physical sciences

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

4. Forty credits in social studies, including United States History and Geography; World History, Culture and Geography; a one-semester course in American Government and Civics; a one-semester course in Geography; a one-semester course in Ethnic Studies and a one-semester course in Economics/Consumer Education. Up to and including until the graduating class of 2022, students can graduate with either Contemporary Global Issues or Ethnic Studies. From the graduating class of 2023 on, Ethnic Studies will replace Contemporary Global Issues as a graduation requirement.

5. Ten credits in visual or performing arts.

(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

6. Twenty credits in physical education, unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code 51241

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)

7. Ten credits in world languages.

8. Sixty five credits in electives.

9. Demonstrate proficiency in technology literacy.

10. Complete a service learning project or a senior project.

Exemptions and Waivers

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.

A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, migratory children and newly arrived immigrant pupils 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 51225.2 and [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. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

(cf. [1312.3](#) - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. [5145.6](#) - Parental Notifications)

(cf. [6173](#) - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. [6173.1](#) - Education for Foster Youth)

Retroactive Diplomas

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)

In addition, the Board 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 board may retroactively grant a diploma to a former student who successfully completed all of the graduation requirements except for the California High School Exit Exam. (Education Code 51413)

In addition, the board may retroactively grant a diploma to a person who has departed California against his or her will, as defined, and, at the time of his or her departure, was enrolled in grade 12 of a high school operated by the school district, who did not receive a high school diploma because his or her education was interrupted due to his or her departure, and who was in good academic standing at the time of his or her departure, as specified. (Education Code 51430, Immigration Enforcement Policies BP 5145.13)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48430 Continuation education schools and classes

48645.5 Acceptance of coursework

48980 Notification of parent/guardian

51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life

51224.5 Algebra instruction

51225.1 Foster youth, homeless children, children of military families, and migrant children; course credits; graduation requirements

51225.2 For purposes of this section the following definitions apply

51225.3 Requirements for graduation

51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students

51228 Graduation requirements

51241-51246 Exemptions from requirements

51410-51413 Diplomas

51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates

51430 Retroactive high school diplomas

51450-51455 Golden state seal merit diploma
66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
1600-1651 Graduation of pupils from grade 12 and credit toward graduation

Management Resources:

CSBA POLICY ADVISORIES

Algebra I Requirement: Eligibility for High School Diplomas, March 2004

WEB SITES

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

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

Policy SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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