

BP6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

District students shall complete graduation course requirements as specified in Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board, except for students who are exempted as provided in "Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements," below. Students who are exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and school activity related to graduation in which other students are eligible to participate.

Course Requirements

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified. All graduates must complete a minimum of 220 credits of coursework.

Specific Courses

1. Four courses in English – (40 credits)
2. Three and one half courses in Social Studies – (35 credits) which shall include:
 - a. Modern World History I or European History I AP (10 credits)
 - b. Contemporary World Studies (5 credits) or Ethnic Studies (5 credits) *Beginning with the Class of 2024, students will be required to complete Ethnic Studies and CWS will not be an alternative.*
 - c. United States History I (10 credits)
 - d. American Government (5 credits)
 - e. Economics (5 credits)
3. Two courses in Physical Education – (20 credits) Education Code 51225.3), unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3) There is required enrollment in physical education, during grade 9. The balance of the credits shall be taken in grade 10 or may be deferred to grade 11 or 12 based upon student need.
4. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (20 credits) Including 10 credits biological science and 10 credits physical science, of which 10 credits must meet the "d" requirement on the University of California "a-g" list.
5. Three course in Mathematics (Education Code 51225.3) (30 credits)

- a. Students shall complete at least one mathematics course that meets the state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I.
 - b. Students may complete such coursework prior to grade 9 provided that they also complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)
 - c. Successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category C" course based on the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) "A-G" admission requirements shall be counted toward the satisfaction of additional graduation requirements in mathematics. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)
6. One course in Arts: Visual, Fine and Performing - (10 credits) These courses can be taken anytime in grades 9-12.
 7. One course in Career Technical Education (CTE) - (10 credits) These courses can be taken anytime in grades 9-12. To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a CTE course shall be aligned to the CTE model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.
 8. One course in Health – (5 credits)
 9. Elective Credits – (40 credits) No more than 30 credits of School Community Service/Work Experience will be allowed toward the 220 minimum credits required for a diploma; and no more than one School Community Service/Work Experience can be taken during any given semester without the approval of the Principal.

Mathematics Waiver

A student that has passed AP Calculus and the Advanced Placement test and has otherwise met the state requirement for two years of mathematics in high school, the third year district mathematics requirement shall be waived.

World Language Waiver of Requirement

Any student who enters the district with an English proficiency designation of N or L may have the World Language requirement waived. They will not receive credits for the waiver. All other EL students will need to fulfill the World Language requirement for high school graduation. World Language 10 credits to be completed by the end of Grade 10.

Graduation Requirements: Total Credits - Adult School Students/Adult School Diploma

All graduates must complete a minimum of 150 credits of coursework.

Specific Courses

English - 40 credits

Social Studies - 30 credits which will include:

- * Modern World History I (10 credits)
- * United States History I (10 credits)
- * American Government (5 credits)
- * Economics (5 credits)

Physical Education and Activity)

Physical Education is not required for an Adult School Diploma per state regulations.

Science - 20 credits which will include:

- * Physical Science (10 credits)
- * Biological Science (10 credits)

Mathematics - 30 credits

Including 10 credits of Algebra I.

Health- 5 credits

(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)

(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

Elective Credits – 25 credits, including, but not limited to, courses in:

* World Languages

* Fine/Performing Arts

Graduation Ceremony Participation

A student who intends to participate in the annual June graduation ceremony shall so indicate to the school's administration.

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

In addition, a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, shall be exempted from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption shall not apply if 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 the fourth year of high school.

Within 30 days of the transfer into a school by a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student, or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student, and others as required by law, of the availability of the exemption from local graduation requirements and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the individualized education program (IEP) team for each student with disabilities shall determine whether the student is eligible for exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, and if so, shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. A student with disabilities shall be eligible for the exemption, if the student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student take the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)

Support for ELD Students

The San Mateo Union High School District is committed to ensuring all ELD students are provided with the appropriate support to meet graduation requirements. When an ELD student enters the district, counselors will create a graduation plan to determine if the student will need an additional year(s), up to 5 years, to graduate. Counselors will create individual learning plans for students that will be reviewed on an annual basis to assess progress toward graduation. Each student's plan will list the coursework and the sequence necessary to meet District graduation requirements.

6175 - Migrant Education Program)

If during the 2020-21 school year a student was in the third or fourth year of high school and is not on track to graduate in four years, the district shall exempt the student from any local graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3. (Education Code 51225)

Additional Opportunities to Complete Required Coursework

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a student who was enrolled in the third or fourth year of high school during the 2020-21 school year and is not on track to graduate in the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school years the opportunity to complete the statewide coursework required for graduation, which may include, but is not limited to, completion of the coursework through a fifth year of instruction, credit recovery, or other opportunity to complete the required coursework. (Education Code 51225)

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)

In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Departed California against their will while in grade 12 and did not receive a diploma because the departure interrupted their education, provided that they were in good academic standing at the time of the departure

Persons may be considered to have departed California against their will if they were in custody of a government agency and were transferred to another state, were subject to a lawful order from a court or government agency that authorized their removal from California, were subject to a lawful order and were permitted to depart California before being removed from California pursuant to the lawful order, were removed or were permitted to depart voluntarily pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or departed due to other circumstances determined by the district that are consistent with the purposes of Education Code 48204.4.

In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall consider any coursework that may have been completed outside of the U.S. or through online or virtual courses.

2. Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district high school immediately preceding the internment or military service and did not receive a diploma because their education was interrupted due to the internment or military service in those wars

Deceased former students who satisfy these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin.

3. Are veterans who entered the military service of the U.S. while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school
4. Were in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year as of March 1, 2020, and were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to: (Education Code 51225.5)

1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of study ordinarily required for graduation and who is returning to the student's home country following the completion of one academic school year in the district
2. A student who is terminally ill

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district. (Education Code 51225.5)

POLICY
adopted: October 27, 2022

SAN MATEO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
San Mateo, California