



Birmingham Community Charter High School

Board Policy 63 – High School Diploma Options for Foreign Exchange Senior and/or Newcomer Students

Purpose(s):

This policy provides an avenue for Newcomer students that enroll during their 2nd year of high school or Foreign Exchange Senior students to complete the CDE Graduation Requirements while also meeting the UC and/or CSU A-G requirements.

Issuer:

Isaac Alatorre, Director

Board Approved:

May 21, 2024

Federal / State / laws, regulations, bulletins and/or memorandums:

EC Section 56101
EC Section 51225.1
EC Section 51225.2
EC Section 51225.3
EC Section 5444.1
AB 2121
AB 714
BP 47

Attachments:

Attachment A

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Birmingham Community Charter High School (BCCHS) Board approved and adopted the UC/CSU A-G course sequence as part of the high school graduation requirements. Currently, students are required to complete 230 credits with a grade of “D” or better in the areas indicated in the table shown below:

BCCHS Graduation Subject & Credit Requirements (Table 1)		
Subject Area	Courses	Credits
A¹ Social Science	World History AB	30 credits
	US History AB	
	Principles Am Democracy	
	Economics	
B English	English 9AB	40 credits
	English 10AB	
	American Lit & Cont. Comp	
	ERWC AB	
C² Math	Algebra 1AB	20-30 credits
	Geometry AB	
	Algebra 2AB	
D Science	Biological Science AB	20 credits
	Physical Science AB	
E³ LOTE	Language Other Than English 1	5-20 credits
	Language Other Than English 2	
F VPA	Fine Arts	10 credits
G⁴ College Prep	College Prep Elective	NA
	CTE	Career Technical Education
Health	Health	5 credits
PE	Physical Education	20 credits
Electives	Electives	45-70 credits
TOTAL CREDITS		230 credits

Validations rules are applicable in Mathematics, Language Other Than English (LOTE) and Chemistry.

- Math: Students who use validation to fulfill the Math graduation requirement must also complete a minimum of 20 credits in the Math subject area.
- Chemistry: Students are required to complete at least 10 credits of a yearlong physical science course, irrespective of whether validation is used to satisfy the completion of Chemistry.
- LOTE: Validation may be used to fulfill this requirement regardless of credit completion.

On March 23, 2021, the BCCHS Board also approved Board Policy (BP) 47 - Math and LOTE waivers for students with disabilities (SWD).

CURRENT EXEMPTIONS:

Students that meet specific criteria under Assembly Bills (AB) 216, 1806 and/or 2121 shall be exempt from BCCHS Graduation Requirements and shall complete the minimum California Department of Education (CDE) Graduation Requirements (EC Section 51225.3) as detailed in table provided below:



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CDE Graduation Requirements (Table 2)		
Subject Area	Courses	Credits
Social Science	3 Yearlong Courses: World History AB US History AB Principles Am Democracy Economics	30 credits
English	3 Yearlong Courses	30 credits
Math	2 Yearlong Courses (including 1 Year of Algebra)	20 credits
Science	2 Yearlong Courses: 1 Biological Science AB 1 Physical Science AB	20 credits
VPA LOTE CTE	1 Yearlong Course in VPA, LOTE or CTE	10 credits
PE	2 Yearlong Courses	20 credits
Ethnic Studies	1 Semester (beginning with the Graduating Class of 2030)	5 credits
TOTAL CREDITS		130/135 credits

In October of 2023, Assembly Bill (AB) 714 “amended EC sections 51225.1 and 51225.2 by updating the language from ‘student participating in a newcomer program’ to ‘newcomer pupils’ and defines newcomer pupil as ‘individuals 3 through 21 years of age who were not born in any state and have not been attending one or more schools in any one or more states for more than 3 full academic years.’”

Newcomer pupils may include, but are not limited to, asylees, refugees, unaccompanied youth, undocumented youth, migratory students, and other immigrant children and youth identified by the local educational agencies.

Under AB 2121, Newcomer pupils that are in their third or fourth year of high school are exempt from additional Local Educational Agency (LEA) graduation requirements and may complete the minimum CDE Graduation Requirements (Table 2), unless the LEA determines that the student “is reasonably able to complete the LEAs graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student’s fourth year of high school.”

DEFINITIONS

- Newcomer Program: “a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant pupils that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency.”



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MAJOR CHANGES:

This policy:

- Provides Newcomer students that are in their 2nd year of high school, irrespective of their participation in a Newcomer Program, with an alternate pathway to receive a BCCHS diploma by completing the minimum UC or CSU A-G and CDE Graduation requirements.
- Provides foreign exchange senior students a pathway to a high school diploma by completing the CDE Graduation Requirements. This policy also provides guidelines for foreign exchange students that also wish to complete the UC or CSU A-G requirements.

GUIDELINES:

I. Newcomer Students

A. Newcomer students that are in their 2nd year of high school shall be offered two options to receive a BCCHS diploma.

1. Complete the current BCCHS high school graduation requirements **OR**
2. Complete the A-G requirements with a grade of "C" or better and the CDE High School Graduation Requirements (Table 3)

Newcomer / Foreign Exchange Graduation & A-G Requirements Option (Table 3)		
Subject Area	Courses	Credits
A Social Science	World History AB US History AB Principles Am Democracy Economics	30 credits
B English	English 9AB English 10AB American Lit & Cont. Comp ERWC AB	40 credits
C Math Validation Applies	Algebra 1AB Geometry AB Algebra 2AB	20-30 credits
D Science	Biological Science AB Physical Science AB	20 credits
E LOTE Validation Applies	Language Other Than English 1 Language Other Than English 2	5-20 credits
F VPA	Fine Arts	10 credits
G College Prep	College Prep Elective	Fulfilled w "A"
PE	Physical Education	20 credits
TOTAL CREDITS		145-170 credits

Validations:

- Math: Validation rules apply. Nevertheless, the student must complete a minimum of 20 credits to meet the CDE Math requirement.
- LOTE: Validation rules apply, regardless of credit completion.

College Preparatory Requirement:



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- The college preparatory course requirement may be fulfilled with Principles of American Democracy and Economics or their equivalent.

- B. A Newcomer student is eligible for this option if the student meets any of the following criteria:
 - The student is 15 years of age with no prior schooling record.
 - The student has completed the 9th grade in a country other than the US, regardless of age.
 - It is determined, based on the minimal school records provided, that the student would have been in the 2nd year of high school, regardless of age.
 - The student enrolls in the 10th grade.

II. Foreign Exchange Senior Students

The Foreign Exchange Program at BCCHS aims to offer international students a genuine and transformative high school experience while fostering cultural exchange and building lasting friendships among students from diverse backgrounds and cultures. International students participating in a Foreign Exchange Program at BCCHS are not required to complete the BCCHS graduation requirements. Typically, foreign exchange students are scheduled in courses that correspond to their grade level.

- A. A foreign exchange senior student shall have the option of completing the CDE Graduation Requirements (Table 2) if the student meets the following criteria:
 - a. The student has completed three years of high school.
 - b. The student has completed at least 180 high school credits.
 - c. The student possesses a sufficient level of English language proficiency to successfully complete the required courses for the high school diploma.

The foreign exchange senior student that participates in this option (Table 2) is not obligated to fulfill the A-G requirements to obtain a BCCHS diploma.

- B. A foreign exchange senior student shall have the option of fulfilling the A-G requirements if the student has completed the minimum UC/CSU 11 A-G course requirements with grades of "C" or better by the end of their third year of high school. Students that elect the A-G option must also satisfy the CDE Graduation Requirements (Table 3) to receive a BCCHS diploma.



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Attachment A

AB 2121/216/1806 Graduate Verification

Student Name:		Enter Date:
DOB:	School:	30-day Deadline:
Permanent ID#:	Current Grade:	Graduation Year:
Specialized Program: <input type="radio"/> ELL <input type="radio"/> Section 504 <input type="radio"/> SDC <input type="radio"/> RSP <input type="radio"/> Other (<i>specify</i>):		
Eligibility: <input type="radio"/> AB216 <input type="radio"/> AB1806 <input type="radio"/> AB2121		

HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT HISTORY

Dates		School Enrollment		
From	To	School	District	Grade

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

AB 216/AB1806/AB2121 COURSE REQUIREMENTS		Semester Credits Earned		Course Title	AB 216/1806/2121 COURSE(S) REMAINING/NOTES
		1	2		
English	30				
English					
English					
Algebra 1	20				
Geometry (OR MATH ELECTIVE: AB216)					
Science (Biological)	20				
Science (Physical)					
World History	30				
US History					
US Government					
Economics/Civic					
Physical Education 1	20				
Physical Education 2					
Visual/Performing Arts	10*				
Career Technical Education					
Foreign Language 1					
Total Credits:	130				

Future Plans: Work Adult School Community College State College UC Job Corps
 Military Vocational/Trade School Other: _____

AB 216/1806/2121 EXEMPTION GRANTED: YES NO RE-EVALUATION

Reason: _____

Academic Counselor: _____ Date: _____

*This is to notify the student below, the education rights holder and the LEA newcomer, homeless and/or foster youth liaison, that graduating by meeting the basic California High School diploma requirements **WILL NOT** meet eligibility requirements for attendance to a four-year post-secondary university. You are encouraged to contact your two-year community college, career technical or military advisory/representative to explore additional post-secondary options.*

- Exemption not accepted Remain in district for 5th year to complete district graduation requirements
- Provided information about transfer opportunities available through California Community Colleges

 Student Signature Date **Educational Rights Holder Signature Date

 BCCHS Homeless & Foster Youth Liaison Signature Date Academic Counselor Signature Date

* Must be ONE year in the same subject area (VPA, CTE or LOTE)
 ** Not required for an Unaccompanied Youth or an 18 year old Student.