



## INSTRUCTION

### **BOARD POLICY – HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY-OPERATED PROGRAMS**

BP 6146.1

The County Board of Education (County Board) and the County Superintendent of Schools (County Superintendent) desire to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma so that they can take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

#### **Course Requirements**

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete at least the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

1. Four courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Three courses in mathematics, to include one course in Algebra I/Mathematics I (Education Code 51225.3)
3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
4. 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 (Education Code 51225.3)
5. One course in visual or performing arts, world language, including American Sign Language, or career technical education (CTE) (Education Code 51225.3)

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. (Education Code 51225.3)

6. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3)
7. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year and for the graduating class of 2029-30, a one-semester course in ethnic studies (Education Code 51225.3)

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

### **Exemptions from SBCEO 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 County 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

In addition, a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into a Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO) county-operated program 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 exempt from any additional adopted graduation requirements, unless the County 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 into a SBCEO county-operated program 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 County Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student, and others required by law, of the availability of the exemption from local graduation requirements and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

### **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, SBCEO may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who 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. (Education Code, 51430, 51440)

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**Policy Reference Disclaimer:**

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the County Superintendent of Schools or designee to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

47612 Enrollment in charter school  
48200 Compulsory attendance  
48412 Certificate of proficiency  
48430 Continuation education schools and classes  
48645.5 Acceptance of coursework  
48980 Required notification at beginning of term  
49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children  
51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life  
51224.5 Algebra instruction  
51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements  
51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course  
51225.3 High school graduation  
51225.35 Mathematics course requirements; computer science  
51225.36 Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation  
51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students  
51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation  
51228 Graduation requirements  
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements  
51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents  
51410-51413 Diplomas  
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates  
51430 Retroactive high school diplomas  
51440 Retroactive high school diplomas  
51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma  
51745 Independent study restrictions  
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education  
66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria  
67386 Student safety; affirmative consent standard

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation  
4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures

COURT DECISIONS

O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARD:

June 2, 2018

REVISED:

February 8, 2024