

**Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements**

**Status:** ADOPTED

**Original Adopted Date:** 06/11/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/11/2024

## **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. Unless exempted as provided in "Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements," district students shall also complete other course requirements adopted by the Board. 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.

### **Unit Requirements**

1. Comprehensive high school graduates shall complete 260 semester units in order to graduate.
2. If a student transfers in from a comprehensive school with a traditional six period schedule, the student will be expected to complete the following credits:
  - a. Transfer in after 1-3 semesters 260 units
  - b. Transfer in after 4-5 semesters 240 units
  - c. Transfer in after 6-7 semesters 220 units
3. If a student transfers in from a comprehensive school with a seven period schedule, the student will be expected to complete the following credits:
  - a. Transfer in after 1-4 semesters 260 units
  - b. Transfer in after 5-6 semesters 240 units
  - c. Transfer in after 7 semesters 230 units
4. Beginning with the class of 2010, students graduating from alternative high schools of Independence or Adelante, or from nonpublic schools, shall complete 220 semester units in order to graduate.
5. Beginning with the class of 2023, students graduating from the diploma recovery programs at Adelante or Roseville Adult School shall complete 180 semester units in order to graduate.

### **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. Two courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3).

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I.

Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Algebra I or Mathematics I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code [51224.5](#)).

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.
5. One course in economics. (Education Code 51223)
6. One course in visual or performing arts or 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.
7. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3).
8. One half of a course or the equivalent of a five credit course in ethnic studies (as defined in the introductory paragraph under this section, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified). This requirement shall commence with the students graduating in the 2029-30 school year. The district is required to offer students in grades 9 to 12 a half of a course or the equivalent of a five credit course in ethnic studies, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year (Education Code 51225.3).
9. One half of a course or the equivalent of a five credit course in health (as defined in the introductory paragraph under this section, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified). Students enrolling in district schools for the first time at grade 10 or above are exempt from this requirement.
10. Introduction to Personal Finance: As a condition of high school graduation from the Roseville Joint Union High School District, each student completing grade 12 shall have either successfully passed a Personal Finance course or certified as such by successfully passing an online Introduction to Personal Finance examination or course, unless the student receives a waiver or exemption.

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.

### **Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements**

District students are required to complete graduation course requirements specified above, including the requirements imposed by Education Code [51225.3](#) and those adopted by the Board with limited exceptions.

A foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or newcomer student who is in the third or fourth year of high school 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 additional 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 the foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or newcomer student, 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](#))

The Superintendent or designee shall not require or request the foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or newcomer student who is exempted from district-established graduation requirements and who completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, to graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school. (Education Code 51225.1)

If the foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or newcomer student was not properly notified of an exemption, declined the exemption, or was not previously exempted, the student or the student's educational rights holder may request the exemption and the Superintendent or designee shall exempt the student within 30 days of the request. Any such student who at one time qualified for the exemption may request the exemption even if the student is no longer eligible. (Education Code 51225.1)

Additionally, an individual with exceptional needs, who entered ninth grade in the 2022–23 school year or later, shall be eligible for an exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, if the student's individualized education program (IEP) provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student is eligible to take the alternate assessment 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

The district's responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education shall not terminate when a student with a disability who is exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements participates in graduation activities unless the IEP team, which includes the parent/guardian and

student, has determined that the student has completed the high school experience. (Education Code 51225.31)

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of students graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from district-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

### **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: (Education Code [48204.4](#), [51430](#), [51440](#))

1. Persons who 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 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 United States or through Personal Finance or virtual courses.

2. Former students who were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district 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. Veterans who entered the military service of the United States while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school.

4. Are former members of the military, a resident of California, and received an honorable discharge, or, are current members of the military, a resident of California, and a resident of California when entering the military.

In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall evaluate classes completed in any high school, community college, or state college, grant credit toward graduation for military service and training received while in the military, and if satisfied that the person has completed the equivalent of the requirements for graduation from high school, grant the person a diploma of graduation.

5. 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 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](#))

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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 board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

| <b>State</b>     | <b>Description</b>                                                        |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 CCR 1600-1651  | Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation         |
| 5 CCR 4600-4670  | Uniform complaint procedures                                              |
| Ed Code 60900.2  | <a href="#">Students with Disabilities Graduation Reporting</a>           |
| Ed. Code 220     | <a href="#">Prohibition of discrimination</a>                             |
| Ed. Code 47612   | <a href="#">Average daily attendance in charter school</a>                |
| Ed. Code 48200   | <a href="#">Compulsory attendance</a>                                     |
| Ed. Code 48204.4 | <a href="#">Parents/guardians departing California against their will</a> |
| Ed. Code 48412   | <a href="#">Certificate of proficiency</a>                                |
| Ed. Code 48430   | <a href="#">Continuation education schools and classes</a>                |

|                        |                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ed. Code 48645.5       | <a href="#"><u>Former juvenile court school students; enrollment</u></a>                                                     |
| Ed. Code 48980         | <a href="#"><u>Parent/Guardian notifications</u></a>                                                                         |
| Ed. Code 49701         | <a href="#"><u>Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children</u></a>               |
| Ed. Code 51224         | <a href="#"><u>Skills and knowledge required for adult life</u></a>                                                          |
| Ed. Code 51224.5       | <a href="#"><u>Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12</u></a>                                                            |
| Ed. Code 51225.1       | <a href="#"><u>Exemption from district graduation requirements</u></a>                                                       |
| Ed. Code 51225.2       | <a href="#"><u>Course credits</u></a>                                                                                        |
| Ed. Code 51225.3       | <a href="#"><u>High school graduation requirements</u></a>                                                                   |
| Ed. Code 51225.31      | <a href="#"><u>Graduation exemption for students with disabilities</u></a>                                                   |
| Ed. Code 51225.35      | <a href="#"><u>Mathematics course requirements; computer science</u></a>                                                     |
| Ed. Code 51225.36      | <a href="#"><u>Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation</u></a> |
| Ed. Code 51225.5       | <a href="#"><u>Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange and terminally ill students</u></a>                                       |
| Ed. Code 51225.6       | <a href="#"><u>Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; districts that require health education for graduation</u></a>  |
| Ed. Code 51225.9       | <a href="#"><u>Courses of study, grades 7 to 12; career technical education</u></a>                                          |
| Ed. Code 51226.7       | <a href="#"><u>Model curriculum in ethnic studies</u></a>                                                                    |
| Ed. Code 51228         | <a href="#"><u>Course of study; offerings and timely opportunity</u></a>                                                     |
| Ed. Code 51230         | <a href="#"><u>Credit for community emergency response training</u></a>                                                      |
| Ed. Code 51240-51246   | <a href="#"><u>Exemptions from requirements</u></a>                                                                          |
| Ed. Code 51250-51251   | <a href="#"><u>Assistance to military dependents</u></a>                                                                     |
| Ed. Code 51410-51413   | <a href="#"><u>Diplomas</u></a>                                                                                              |
| Ed. Code 51420-51427   | <a href="#"><u>High school equivalency certificates</u></a>                                                                  |
| Ed. Code 51430         | <a href="#"><u>Retroactive high school diplomas</u></a>                                                                      |
| Ed. Code 51440         | <a href="#"><u>Credit and granting of diploma to veterans and members of the military service</u></a>                        |
| Ed. Code 51450-51455   | <a href="#"><u>Golden State Seal Merit Diploma</u></a>                                                                       |
| Ed. Code 51744-51749.6 | <a href="#"><u>Independent study</u></a>                                                                                     |
| Ed. Code 56390-56392   | <a href="#"><u>Recognition for educational achievement; special education</u></a>                                            |
| Ed. Code 60640         | <a href="#"><u>California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress</u></a>                                             |
| Ed. Code 66204         | <a href="#"><u>Certification of high school courses as meeting university</u></a>                                            |

Ed. Code 67386

**Federal**

20 USC 7011

34 CFR 300.1-300.818

**Management Resources**

Court Decision

Website

Website

Website

Website

[admission criteria](#)

[Student safety; affirmative consent standard](#)

**Description**

[Definition of newcomer student](#)

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)

**Description**

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

[CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services](#)

[California Department of Education, High School](#)

[University of California, List of Approved A-G Courses](#)

[CSBA](#)

**Cross References**

**Code**

0460

0460

1312.3

1312.3

1312.3-E PDF(1)

1312.3-E PDF(2)

4112.2

4112.2

5113.2

5113.2

5126

5126

5127

5145.6

5145.6-E PDF(1)

5147

6000

**Description**

[Local Control And Accountability Plan](#)

[Local Control And Accountability Plan](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Uniform Complaint Procedures](#)

[Certification](#)

[Certification](#)

[Work Permits](#)

[Work Permits](#)

[Awards For Achievement](#)

[Awards For Achievement](#)

[Graduation Ceremonies And Activities](#)

[Parent/Guardian Notifications](#)

[Parent/Guardian Notifications](#)

[Dropout Prevention](#)

[Concepts And Roles](#)

|         |                                                                           |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6011    | <a href="#"><u>Academic Standards</u></a>                                 |
| 6141    | <a href="#"><u>Curriculum Development And Evaluation</u></a>              |
| 6141    | <a href="#"><u>Curriculum Development And Evaluation</u></a>              |
| 6142.1  | <a href="#"><u>Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction</u></a>  |
| 6142.1  | <a href="#"><u>Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction</u></a>  |
| 6142.2  | <a href="#"><u>World Language Instruction</u></a>                         |
| 6142.2  | <a href="#"><u>World Language Instruction</u></a>                         |
| 6142.3  | <a href="#"><u>Civic Education</u></a>                                    |
| 6142.6  | <a href="#"><u>Visual And Performing Arts Education</u></a>               |
| 6142.7  | <a href="#"><u>Physical Education And Activity</u></a>                    |
| 6142.7  | <a href="#"><u>Physical Education And Activity</u></a>                    |
| 6142.8  | <a href="#"><u>Comprehensive Health Education</u></a>                     |
| 6142.8  | <a href="#"><u>Comprehensive Health Education</u></a>                     |
| 6142.91 | <a href="#"><u>Reading/Language Arts Instruction</u></a>                  |
| 6142.92 | <a href="#"><u>Mathematics Instruction</u></a>                            |
| 6142.93 | <a href="#"><u>Science Instruction</u></a>                                |
| 6142.94 | <a href="#"><u>History-Social Science Instruction</u></a>                 |
| 6143    | <a href="#"><u>Courses Of Study</u></a>                                   |
| 6143    | <a href="#"><u>Courses Of Study</u></a>                                   |
| 6145    | <a href="#"><u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u></a>        |
| 6145    | <a href="#"><u>Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities</u></a>        |
| 6145.2  | <a href="#"><u>Athletic Competition</u></a>                               |
| 6145.2  | <a href="#"><u>Athletic Competition</u></a>                               |
| 6145.6  | <a href="#"><u>International Exchange</u></a>                             |
| 6145.6  | <a href="#"><u>International Exchange</u></a>                             |
| 6146.11 | <a href="#"><u>Alternative Credits Toward Graduation</u></a>              |
| 6146.11 | <a href="#"><u>Alternative Credits Toward Graduation</u></a>              |
| 6146.2  | <a href="#"><u>Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency</u></a> |
| 6146.2  | <a href="#"><u>Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency</u></a> |
| 6146.3  | <a href="#"><u>Reciprocity Of Academic Credit</u></a>                     |
| 6146.3  | <a href="#"><u>Reciprocity Of Academic Credit</u></a>                     |

|        |                                                                                                 |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6146.4 | <a href="#">Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities</a> |
| 6152.1 | <a href="#">Placement In Mathematics Courses</a>                                                |
| 6152.1 | <a href="#">Placement In Mathematics Courses</a>                                                |
| 6155   | <a href="#">Challenging Courses By Examination</a>                                              |
| 6155   | <a href="#">Challenging Courses By Examination</a>                                              |
| 6158   | <a href="#">Independent Study</a>                                                               |
| 6158   | <a href="#">Independent Study</a>                                                               |
| 6159.2 | <a href="#">Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education</a>        |
| 6159.2 | <a href="#">Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education</a>        |
| 6161.1 | <a href="#">Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials</a>                             |
| 6161.1 | <a href="#">Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials</a>                             |
| 6162.5 | <a href="#">Student Assessment</a>                                                              |
| 6172.1 | <a href="#">Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes</a>                                        |
| 6172.1 | <a href="#">Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes</a>                                        |
| 6173   | <a href="#">Education For Homeless Children</a>                                                 |
| 6173   | <a href="#">Education For Homeless Children</a>                                                 |
| 6173.1 | <a href="#">Education For Foster Youth</a>                                                      |
| 6173.1 | <a href="#">Education For Foster Youth</a>                                                      |
| 6173.2 | <a href="#">Education Of Children Of Military Families</a>                                      |
| 6173.2 | <a href="#">Education Of Children Of Military Families</a>                                      |
| 6173.3 | <a href="#">Education For Juvenile Court School Students</a>                                    |
| 6177   | <a href="#">Summer Learning Programs</a>                                                        |
| 6178   | <a href="#">Career Technical Education</a>                                                      |
| 6178   | <a href="#">Career Technical Education</a>                                                      |
| 6178.1 | <a href="#">Work-Based Learning</a>                                                             |
| 6178.1 | <a href="#">Work-Based Learning</a>                                                             |
| 6178.2 | <a href="#">Regional Occupational Center/Program</a>                                            |
| 6179   | <a href="#">Supplemental Instruction</a>                                                        |
| 6179   | <a href="#">Supplemental Instruction</a>                                                        |

|      |                                                               |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6181 | <a href="#"><u>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</u></a> |
| 6181 | <a href="#"><u>Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice</u></a> |
| 6184 | <a href="#"><u>Continuation Education</u></a>                 |
| 6184 | <a href="#"><u>Continuation Education</u></a>                 |
| 6200 | <a href="#"><u>Adult Education</u></a>                        |
| 6200 | <a href="#"><u>Adult Education</u></a>                        |
| 9000 | <a href="#"><u>Role Of The Board</u></a>                      |