

Instruction

CHALLENGING COURSES BY EXAMINATION

The Board of Trustees recognizes that there is a need to allow high school students to challenge a given course by examination in order to achieve more academic flexibility. Students may challenge a prerequisite course, demonstrating a competency through examination and/or performance, in order to proceed to a more advanced, subject related course. This opportunity will permit a student to enroll in courses best suited to his/her educational objectives.

The examination shall be comprehensive and cover all course objectives. Successful completion of the examination shall be at a level which indicates mastery of the content and/or reasonable chance for success in the next higher course.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

51225.3 Requirements for graduation

52017 Secondary school; additional inclusion in (school improvement) plan

(5/85) 6/98

12/9/98

2/9/00

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Petition to Challenge Course

At least one month prior to the beginning of the course, currently enrolled students interested in challenging a course shall file a petition form with their counselor. Entering ninth-grade students and new enrollees shall file a petition and take the examination within two weeks of the time of initial entry to high school classes.

The counselor shall inform the course instructor of the student's intent to challenge the course. The student shall be allowed to challenge the course by examination if his/her petition is signed by the counselor, department chair and parent/guardian. The student's petition shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Grades in courses of the subject area of the challenge
2. Recommendations from the teacher
3. Substitute courses to be taken by the student
4. Student's rationale or reasons for challenging a specific course

The challenge examination may be offered when the course is part of a sequence of courses normally taken in specific order or when the course is normally required for entry into another course.

1. During their enrollment in high school, students may challenge approved courses which meet graduation requirements. While successful challenge will exempt a student from those specific courses required for graduation, the student is still responsible for the total units required for graduation. Units of high school credit will not be issued as the result of a successful challenge.
2. A student may challenge a particular course only once.
3. A student may challenge only one course per semester. This may be a course in which the student is enrolled or any other approved course offering.
4. A student may not challenge a course below his/her grade placement.

CHALLENGING COURSES BY EXAMINATION (continued)

Test Content and Administration

The principal and department chairpersons shall collaborate with teachers in the development of appropriate district-wide testing procedures and materials for the classes that may be challenged within each department. Departmentally-developed performance objectives shall determine the content and the type of evaluation to be used. The examination may be written, oral, by demonstration or any combination thereof.

The type of test administered shall depend on the course outline. The department chairperson or designee shall supervise the administration and evaluation of tests pertaining to the department.

The student must earn the equivalent of an A or B when challenging a course by examination. The transcript shall reflect that the course requirements were met by challenge.

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

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