High School Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency

Adopted: 02/19/1974 **| Last Revised:** 03/10/2026 **| Last Reviewed**: 03/10/2026

The Board of Education 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.

Students who complete and pass high school level course work prior to grade 9 may receive credits towards graduation. The following high school level coursework that may be completed prior to grade 9 includes an Integrated Math 1 course that meets or exceeds California state academic standards, an Integrated Math 2 course or a high school level World Language course.

Courses taken in Lodi USD middle schools that have the same course codes and requirements as high school courses may be granted high school credits toward graduation. Grades for such classes will not be counted toward high school grade point average.

Course Requirements

Students will complete, at a minimum, the following number of credits in the specified subjects. Each semester course earns five credits, and each year course earns ten credits.

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

For the Graduating Classes of 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030 (9th grade entry Fall of 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)

UC A-G Subject Areas	Courses	Lodi USD Graduation Requirements
A	**World History, US History, Government/Economics**	30 credits (3 years)
B	**English** (grade 9,10,11,12)	40 credits (4 years)
C	**Mathematics taken in Grades 9-12** Students shall complete at least one mathematics course that meets the state academic content standards for Algebra 1 or Integrated Mathematics 1. Students may complete such coursework prior to grade 9 provided they also complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12.	20 credits (2 years)
D	**Science**, with at least 1 course in physical science and 1 course in biological sciences	20 credits (2 years)
E or F	**Visual or Performing Arts, and/or World Languages, or Career Technical Education (CTE), including American Sign Language.** 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.	10 credits (1 year)
G	**Electives**	80 credits

	Local Pathway Board-approved Local Pathway courses include High School 101, Driver's Ed, Health, Family Living, World Geography, AVID, Seminar 101, Freshman Frontier, Sophomore Summit, Junior Journey, Senior Soar, Ethnic Studies and AP Human Geography. Note: Several courses may meet the Ethnic Studies requirement per California regulations.	10 credits
	Physical Education	20 credits (2 years) unless otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code 51225.3

For the Graduating Class of 2031 (9th grade entry Fall of 2027)

UC A-G Subject Areas	Courses	Lodi USD Graduation Requirements
A	**World History, US History, Government Financial Literacy**	30 credits (3 years)
B	**English** (grade 9,10,11,12)	40 credits (4 years)
C	**Mathematics** taken in Grades 9-12 Students shall complete at least one mathematics course that meets the state academic content standards for Algebra 1 or Mathematics 1. Students may complete such coursework prior to grade 9 provided they also complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12.	20 credits (2 years)
D	**Science**, with at least 1 course in physical science and 1 course in biological sciences	20 credits (2 years)
E or F	**Visual or Performing Arts, World Language, or Career Technical Education (CTE), including American Sign Language**	10 credits (1 year)
G	**Electives**	80 credits
	Local Pathway Board-approved Local Pathway courses include High School 101, Driver's Ed, Health, Family Living, World Geography, AVID, Seminar 101, Freshman Frontier, Sophomore Summit, Junior Journey, Senior Soar, Ethnic Studies and AP Human Geography. Note: Several courses may meet the Ethnic Studies requirement per California regulations.	10 credits
	Physical Education	20 credits (2 years) unless otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code 51225.3

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

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.

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.

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.

Additionally, a student with disabilities 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:

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.

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of student's 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.

In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who:

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. 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:

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.

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.

Legal References:

STATE
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
5 CCR 1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
5 CCR 4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures
EDUCATION CODE
60900.2 Students with Disabilities Graduation Reporting
220 Prohibition of discrimination
47612 Average daily attendance in charter school
48200 Compulsory attendance
48204.4 Parents/guardians departing California against their will
48412 Certificate of proficiency
48430 Continuation education schools and classes
48645.5 Former juvenile court school students; enrollment
48980 Parent/Guardian notifications
49701 Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life
51224.5 Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12
51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements
51225.2 Course credits
51225.3 High school graduation requirements
51225.31 Graduation exemption for students with disabilities
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 and terminally ill students
51225.6 Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; districts that require health education for graduation
51225.9 Courses of study, grades 7 to 12; career technical education
51226.7 Model curriculum in ethnic studies
51228 Course of study; offerings and timely opportunity
51230 Credit for community emergency response training
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 Credit and granting of diploma to veterans and members of the military service

51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
51744-51749.6 Independent study
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement; special education
60640 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria
67386 Student safety; affirmative consent standard

FEDERAL

UNITED STATES CODES
20 USC 7011 Definition of newcomer student

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS
34 CFR 300.1-300.818 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

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

WEBSITES
CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.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 https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements
CSBA http://www.csba.org/

Policy Adopted:	02/19/1974
Revised:	11/04/1975
Revised:	06/01/1976
Revised:	11/07/1978
Revised:	12/02/1980
Revised:	01/17/1984
Revised:	02/05/1985
Revised:	06/18/1996
Revised:	12/08/1998
Revised:	02/06/2001
Revised:	06/03/2003
Revised:	10/07/2003
Revised:	01/06/2004
Revised:	09/21/2004 (technical revision)
Revised:	05/03/2005
Revised:	09/02/2008
Revised:	05/19/2009
Revised:	02/02/2010
Revised:	05/05/2010
Revised:	09/07/2010
Revised:	05/17/2011
Revised:	04/17/2012
Revised:	06/19/2015 (technical revision)
Revised:	02/07/2017
Revised:	03/06/2018
Revised:	04/19/2022
Revised:	07/15/2025
Revised:	03/10/2026