

Liberty Union High School District

Board Policy

Classification: Instruction

Policy No. BP 6146.1a

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Effective 5/14/08

Subject Graduation Requirements
Independence High School

Revised 5/13/26

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. Additionally, unless exempted as provided in "Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements for Highly Mobile Students," below, or in Board Policy 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities, district students shall 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.

Where a course is applicable to more than one subject area requirement, the units will be counted only once.

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 (Education Code 51225.3)

Students shall complete at least one mathematics course that meets the state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Students may complete such coursework prior to grade 9, provided that they also complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

Successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category C" course based on the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) "A-G" admission requirements shall be counted toward the satisfaction of additional graduation requirements in mathematics. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Three courses in social studies, including United States (U.S.) 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, or world language.

For purposes of this requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in world language (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)

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7. Contingent on funding, beginning with the 2029-30 school year, a one-semester course in ethnic studies (Education Code 51225.3)
8. Beginning with the 2030-31 school year, a separate, stand-alone one-semester course in personal finance, that is not combined with any other course (Education Code 51225.3)

A student who completes a separate stand-alone one-semester course in personal finance may be exempted from the requirement to complete a one-semester course in economics. (Education Code 51225.3)

Additionally, to obtain a high school diploma, students in grades 9-12 shall complete the following Board-adopted courses or requirements:

9. A one-semester course in health education.
10. 155 units must be completed in accordance with the content or subject area minimum requirement indicated in the basic requirement chart below. Beginning with the 2029-2030 school year, 160 units will be required.
11. 205 units are required, in grades 9 through 12, to qualify for a diploma of graduation. 210 units beginning with the 2029-2030 school year.

To qualify for a diploma from Independence High School, a student must earn 205 semester units in grades 9 through 12. One hundred fifty-five (155) of those semester units must be selected in accordance with the content or subject area minimum requirements indicated below. All students will follow the program shown.

Graduation Requirements

Content or Subject Area	Required Units	Required Courses or Program
English	40	<u>Grade 9</u> (10 units) English 9 <u>Grade 10</u> (10 Units) English 10 <u>Grade 11</u> (10 units) English 11 <u>Grade 12</u> (10 units) English 12 Or any other approved course. ELD or ALD class may be used for 10 units of the English requirement.
Ethnic Studies	0	*5 units Ethnic Studies (Beginning 2029-2030) Contingent on funding
Fine Arts or Foreign Language	10	Any approved Visual and Performing Arts or Foreign Language Course.
Health	5	Health (5 Units)
Mathematics	30	Curricular content of Algebra 1 and Geometry, and additional coursework to equal 30 units
Personal Finance	0	**5 units Personal Finance (Beginning 2030-2031)

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Content or Subject Area	Required Units	Required Courses or Program
Physical Education	20	Physical Education - Grade 9 (10 units) Physical Education - Grades 10, 11, 12 (10 units)
Science	20	Any course approved for science credit. Course must include: Biological Science (10 units) Physical Science (10 units)
Social Science	30	World History - Grades 10 (10 units) US. History - Grade 11 (10 units) American Government - Grade 12 (5 units) Economics - Grade 12 (5 units) **5 units Exempted in Economics if Personal Finance is successfully completed (Beginning 2030-2031)
Subject Area Requirements	155 units	*160 units (Beginning 2029-2030)
Elective units	50 units	
Total Requirements	205 units	*210 units (Beginning 2029-2030)

*Ethnic Studies graduation requirement. Contingent on funding, beginning with the 2029-30 school year, students will complete a one-semester 5-unit course in ethnic studies.

**Personal Finance graduation requirements will be included as a graduation requirement for the 2030-31 school year. Commencing with students graduating in the 2030-31 school year, a student who completes a one-semester personal finance course requirement may elect to be exempt from the one-semester economics course requirement.

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.

The Superintendent or designee may exempt a student from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to the statewide course requirements. Before exempting a student from such requirements, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the student and the educational rights holder for the student regarding any impact of not fulfilling district-adopted coursework on the student's ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education. (Education Code 51225.3)

Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements for Highly Mobile Students

Highly mobile student means a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, student who is migratory, or a student participating in a newcomer program as specified in Education Code 51225.1.

A highly mobile student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or if a 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

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to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school.

To determine whether a highly mobile student is in the third or fourth year of high school, the district shall use either the number of credits the student has earned as of the date of the transfer, the length of school enrollment, or, for a student with significant gaps in school attendance, the student's age as compared to the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school, whichever qualifies the student for the exemption. Additionally, for a newcomer student, enrollment in grade 11 or 12 based on the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school may be used to determine whether the student is in the student's third or fourth year of high school. (Education Code 51225.1)

Within 30 days of the transfer into a school by a highly mobile student, 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)

If a highly mobile student who is eligible for an exemption from district-established graduation requirements 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)

When a highly mobile student is not exempted from district-established graduation requirements based on the Superintendent's or designee's determination that the student is reasonably able to complete such requirements by the end of the student's fourth year of high school, within 30 calendar days of the following academic year the student shall be reevaluated based on the student's course completion status at the time to determine if the student continues to be reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements in time to graduate by the end of the student's fourth year of high school. Written notice as to whether the student then qualifies for exemption shall be provided to the student, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and if applicable, to the student's social worker or probation officer. (Education Code 51225.1)

If, upon reevaluation, it is determined that the highly mobile student is not reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the student with the option to receive an exemption from district-established graduation requirements or stay in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, or if under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, and provide notifications in accordance with Education Code 51225.1. (Education Code 51225.1)

When a highly mobile student is exempted from district-established graduation requirements, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student regarding the following: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. Discussion of how any requirements that are waived may affect the student's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution

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2. Discussion and information about other options available to the student, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Consideration of the student's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption

The district shall not require or request a highly mobile student to transfer schools in order to qualify for an exemption and shall not grant any request made by an eligible student, or the student's parent/guardian, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, the student's social worker, the student's probation officer, or the district liaison on behalf of the student, as applicable, for a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require a highly mobile student who is eligible for an exemption from district-established graduation requirements and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the school, to accept the exemption or be denied enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible, including courses necessary to attend an institution of higher education, regardless of whether such courses are required for statewide graduation requirements. (Education Code 51225.1)

If a highly mobile student is exempted from district-established graduation requirements, the exemption shall not be revoked. Additionally, the exemption shall continue to apply while the student is enrolled in the school or transfers to another school, including a charter school, or school district, including after the student has ceased to meet the definition of a highly mobile student. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require or request a highly mobile 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)

Upon making a finding that a highly mobile student is reasonably able to complete district-established graduation requirements within the fifth year of high school, the Superintendent or designee shall: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. Consult with the student and, if under 18 years of age, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, of the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements and how that will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
2. Consult with and provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Upon agreement with the student or with the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student if under 18 years of age, permit the student to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the district-established graduation requirements

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4. For a foster youth or a student who is experiencing homelessness, consult with the student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student of the option to remain in the student's school of origin

When a highly mobile student who is eligible for an exemption from district-established graduation requirements is not reasonably able to complete the district-established graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school but is reasonably able to complete the statewide coursework requirements within the fifth year of high school, the student shall be exempted from all district-established graduation requirements and be provided with the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide requirements. In such situations, the Superintendent or designee shall consult with the student and the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student, regarding the following: (Education Code 51225.1)

1. The student's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete statewide coursework requirements
2. The effect of waiving the district-established requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year on the student's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education
3. Other options available to the student, including, but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
4. The student's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements

Information regarding the educational rights of highly mobile students, as specified in Education Code 51225.1, shall be included in the annual uniform complaint procedures notification distributed to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other interested parties pursuant to 5 CCR 4622. (Education Code 51225.2)

Any complaint alleging that the district has not complied with requirements regarding the education of highly mobile students, as specified in Education Code 51225.2, may be filed in accordance with the district's procedures in Administrative Regulation 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures

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. (Education Code 51413)

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Additionally, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

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: (Education Code 51225.5)

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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. (Education Code 51225.5)

Fourth Year Limitation

Students may earn no more than 90 units from all sources in the calendar year prior to their graduation (September-June). Appeals for an exception to this policy may be approved by the site principal under special circumstances.

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.

<u>State</u>	<u>Description</u>
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	Students with Disabilities Graduation Reporting
Ed. Code 220	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 47612	Average daily attendance in charter school
Ed. Code 48200	Compulsory attendance
Ed. Code 48204.4	Parents/guardians departing California against their will
Ed. Code 48412	Certificate of proficiency
Ed. Code 48430	Continuation education schools and classes
Ed. Code 48645.5	Former juvenile court school students; enrollment
Ed. Code 48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
Ed. Code 49701	Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
Ed. Code 51222	Courses of study, grades 7 to 12
Ed. Code 51224	Skills and knowledge required for adult life
Ed. Code 51224.5	Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12
Ed. Code 51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.2	Course credits
Ed. Code 51225.25	Students participating in a newcomer program; definition
Ed. Code 51225.3	High school graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.31	Exemption for students with disabilities
Ed. Code 51225.35	Mathematics course requirements; computer science
Ed. Code 51225.36	Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation
Ed. Code 51225.5	Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange and terminally ill students
Ed. Code 51225.6	Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; districts that require health education for graduation
Ed. Code 51225.9	Courses of study, grades 7 to 12; career technical education
Ed. Code 51226.7	Model curriculum in ethnic studies
Ed. Code 51226.8	Personal finance curriculum guide
Ed. Code 51228	Course of study; offerings and timely opportunity
Ed. Code 51230	Credit for community emergency response training
Ed. Code 51240-51246	Exemptions from requirements

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Ed. Code 51250-51251	Assistance to military dependents
Ed. Code 51410-51413	Diplomas
Ed. Code 51420-51427	High school equivalency certificates
Ed. Code 51430	Retroactive high school diplomas
Ed. Code 51440	Credit and granting of diploma to veterans and members of the military service
Ed. Code 51450-51455	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
Ed. Code 51744-51749.6	Independent study
Ed. Code 56390-56392	Recognition for educational achievement; special education
Ed. Code 60640	California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
Ed. Code 66204	Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria
Ed. Code 67386	Student safety; affirmative consent standard

<u>Federal</u>	<u>Description</u>
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20 USC 7011	Definition of newcomer student
34 CFR 300.1-300.818	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

<u>Management Resources</u>	<u>Description</u>
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Court Decision	O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela) (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452
Website	California Department of Education, Personal Finance
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	California Department of Education, High School
Website	University of California, List of Approved A-G Courses
Website	CSBA

Cross References

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
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0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(2)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
4112.2	Certification
4112.2	Certification
5113.2	Work Permits
5113.2	Work Permits
5126	Awards For Achievement
5126	Awards For Achievement
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5147	Dropout Prevention
6000	Concepts And Roles
6011	Academic Standards
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction
6142.2	World Language Instruction
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6142.3	Civic Education
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6142.93	Science Instruction
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6173	Education For Homeless Children
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6173-E(2)	Education For Homeless Children
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6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.3	Education For Juvenile Court School Students
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(5/09, 4/21, 11/23, 6/25)