

## **Fresno Unified Board Policy (BP) 6146.1 High School Graduation Requirements**

Because graduation from high school provides students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment, the Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation.

Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after completing the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the district.

Units to verify completion of the 230-unit requirement must include the following: Subject Requirements Units

- English 40
- Visual and Performing Arts or Foreign Language 10
- Mathematics (including Algebra and Geometry) 30
- Physical Education 20
- Science (including Physical and Biological Science) 30
- Social Science (including Modern World History, U.S. History, American Government, Economics) 30
- Ethnic Studies 10
- Elective Program 60

Beginning with the graduating class of 2027, students will be required to include a 10-credit, two-semester high school course in the field of Ethnic studies. These students will be freshmen in the 2023-2024 school year.

A maximum of 40 units will be allowed toward graduation through the Work Experience Program (General Work Experience, Exploratory Work Experience or Vocational Education Work Experience) or a combination of Laboratory Assistant and other approved service-type programs. Twenty units will be the maximum allowed in General Work Experience or service-type programs.

In rare instances, a high school principal may recommend to the Superintendent or designee that certain credits required for graduation be waived for individual students. The decision of the Superintendent or designee will be final.

International Baccalaureate students who successfully complete the History Higher Level two-year course of study will meet the 1-year U.S. History, 1-semester Government, and 1-semester Economics graduation requirement. (Education Code 51225.3(b))

### **Alternative Means**

Recognizing that the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the Board shall adopt alternative means for the completion of the prescribed course of study.

The Superintendent or designee shall solicit the views of Board members, administrators, teachers, parents/guardians and students when developing, for Board adoption, a list of alternative means for completing the prescribed course of study. Students with approval of parents/guardian and counselor may substitute up to 30 units of graduation core requirements for courses within a

selected career pathway which include significant concepts of mathematics, science, or English Language Arts. The Superintendent or designee will review and recommend career pathway course(s) which will meet the requirements for alternative means. All students will be required to have algebra and geometry and three years of science; two of which are laboratory science. Alternative means may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Earned credit at an accredited university/college.
2. Algebra/geometry and foreign language courses offered in middle school.
3. Approved Career Pathway course with significant instruction in math, science, or English.

Requirements for graduation and specified alternative means for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to students, parents/guardians and the public. (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)*  
*(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)*

Students shall not be required to have resided within the district for any minimum length of time as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Code 51411)

### Students Receiving IEP Services

Recognizing that the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, IEP teams shall be authorized to specify the substitution of up to two classes (20 units) of non-college preparatory course work. These classes shall be approved by the district, which will satisfy district graduation requirements in excess of state standards. IEP teams shall make decisions on a case-by-case basis consistent with this policy.

### Foreign Exchange Students

Foreign exchange students may receive Certificates of Recognition.

*(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)*

### 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)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that parents/guardians are properly notified of the district proficiency requirements for graduation and will ensure parent/guardian involvement and consultation as required by law in instances where a student has not met district standards.

*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Procedures)*  
*(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competing Standards)*  
*(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance Services)*

*Fresno Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age (40 and above), religious creed, religion, political belief or affiliation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, childbirth, breastfeeding/lactation status, medical condition, military and veteran status, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.*

Legal Reference:  
EDUCATION CODE  
37252 Supplemental instructional programs  
48430 Continuation education schools and classes  
48645.5 Acceptance of coursework  
48980 Notification of parent/guardian  
51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life

51224.5 Algebra instruction  
51225.3 Requirements for graduation  
51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students  
51228 Graduation requirements  
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements  
51410-51412 Diplomas  
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates  
51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma  
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education  
66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria  
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5  
1600-1651 Graduation of pupils from grade 12 and credit toward graduation Management Resources:  
CSBA POLICY ADVISORIES  
Algebra I Requirement: Eligibility for High School Diplomas, March 2004

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>  
California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
adopted: March 26, 1992 Fresno, California  
revised: February 13, 2002  
reviewed: February 2003  
revised: May 24, 2006  
revised: September 14, 2011  
revised: March 17, 2021  
revised: August 24, 2022

*Policy Section: 6000 Instruction*