

High School Graduation Requirements/Standards Of Proficiency

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. The California High School Exit Exam must be passed commencing with the Class of 2006.

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 30
Modern World History (including Modern World History) 10
U.S. History 10
American Government 5
Economics 5
Elective Program 70

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) and a combination of Office Service, Laboratory Assistant and other approved service-type programs. Twenty units will be the maximum allowed in General Work Experience or service programs.

Adult Education students must complete 200 units and meet proficiency and subject requirements, excluding Physical education.

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 laboratory science. Alternative means may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Earned credit at an accredited California university/college.
2. Algebra/geometry, science, and foreign language courses offered in middle school.
3. Approved Career Pathway course with significant instruction in math, science and English.
4. 2+2+2 courses that have been accepted by an accredited postsecondary institution for mathematics, science, and English credit or other elective credit.

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)

Disabled Students

Recognizing that the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some disabled 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)

California High School Exit Examination for 2006 and later.

At the beginning of each school year or at the time a student transfers into the district, the Board shall provide written notification to all students in grades 9 through 12 and to their parents/guardians that, starting in the 2005-06 school year and each year thereafter, each student completing the 12th grade shall be required to successfully pass the California High School Exit Examination as a condition of graduation. The notification shall include, at a minimum, the date

of the examination, the requirements for passing the examination, and the consequences of not passing the examination. (Education Code 48980, 60850)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The examination shall be administered in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation.

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

When students do not demonstrate sufficient progress toward passing the exit examination, supplemental instruction offered by the district shall be designed to assist students to succeed on the exit examination and shall reflect statewide academic standards to the extent that the district has aligned its curriculum with those standards.

(Education Code 60851)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

Supplemental instruction shall include summer school instructional programs for students in grades 7 through 12 who do not demonstrate sufficient progress toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code 37252)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

(cf. 6177 - Summer School)

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)

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
60850-60859 High school exit exam
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

Preparing for the High Stakes of the High School Exit Exam: An Examination of Certificates of Completion, September 2005

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

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