

High School Exit Examination

The Governing Board desires to ensure that district students who graduate from high school can demonstrate grade-level competency in reading, writing and mathematics and are given the opportunity to learn the subjects covered in the high school exit examination.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that district programs and services, including but not limited to instructional materials, staff development and remediation programs, are aligned with the exit exam.

The Superintendent or designee shall administer the exit exam as required by law for high school graduation. (Education Code 60850)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

(cf. 6162.54 - Test Integrity/Test Preparation)

Students who do not demonstrate sufficient progress toward passing the exit exam shall be provided necessary supplemental instruction necessary to assist the students to succeed on the exam. (Education Code 60851)

(cf. 6177 - Summer School)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

A student with a disability shall be permitted to take the exit exam with any accommodations or modifications provided for testing as specified in his/her individualized education program (IEP) adopted pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 plan adopted pursuant to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (Education Code 60850)

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.6 - Identification and Education under Section 504)

At the parent/guardian's request, the principal shall submit to the Board a request for a waiver of the requirement to successfully pass the exit exam for a student with a disability who has taken the exit exam with modifications that alter what the test measures and has received the equivalent of a passing score on one or more subject matter parts of the exam. The Board may waive the requirement for such a student if the principal certifies that the student has all of the following: (Education Code 60851)

1. An IEP or 504 plan in place that requires the accommodations or modifications to be provided to the student when taking the exit exam
2. Sufficient high school level course work either satisfactorily completed or in progress in the district's high school level curriculum sufficient to have attained the skills and knowledge otherwise needed to pass the exit exam
3. An individual score report for the student showing that the student has received the equivalent of a passing score on the exam while using a modification that fundamentally alters what the exit exam measures as determined by the State Board of Education

Upon receiving the certification from the principal, the Board shall consider the waiver request in a timely manner, generally at the next scheduled regular Board meeting.

In order to protect the student's privacy rights, the waiver shall be considered in closed session. Final Board action on the waiver shall be taken in open session and shall be a matter of public record. (Education Code 35146)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

Accommodations for English Language Learners

English language learners may be allowed accommodations on the exam that are necessary and appropriate to afford access to the test consistent with federal law, as long as the accommodations do not fundamentally alter what the exam is designed to measure, including additional time as provided for all students in 5 CCR 1215. (5 CCR 1216, 1217.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that English language learners are evaluated to determine if they possess sufficient English language skills at the time of the exam to be assessed with the test. (5 CCR 1217.5)

If a student does not possess sufficient English language skills to be assessed on the exam, the Superintendent or designee may defer the exam requirement for a period of up to 24 calendar months of enrollment in the California public school system until the student has completed six months of instruction in reading, writing and comprehension in the English language. Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow any pupil to receive a diploma of graduation from high school without passing the exit examination in English prescribe by Education Code 60850. (Education Code 60852)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35146 Closed sessions

37252 Supplemental instruction

37254.1 Required participation in supplemental instruction

51041 Evaluation of educational program

56101 Waiver of code or regulation

60810 Assessment of language development

60850-60859 Exit examination

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1200-1220 High School Exit Examination

UNITED STATE CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

794 Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504

COURT DECISIONS

Chapman v. California Department of Education, (2002, Northern. Dist. of CA) No. C-01-1780
CRB

Management Resources:

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

#01-07 California High School Exit Examination: Waiver of Test Passage for Specific Special
Education Students, December 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS PUBLICATIONS

The Use of Tests as Part of High-Stakes Decision-Making for Students: A Resource Guide for
Educators and Policy-Makers, December 2001

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR>

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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