

**SAN LORENZO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD POLICY**

Instruction

BP 6155

CHALLENGING COURSES BY EXAMINATION

The Governing Board recognizes that there is a need to allow high school students to challenge a given course by examination for grade and credit in order to accelerate progress towards graduation and to achieve more flexibility in the selection of electives. This opportunity will permit a student to enroll in courses best suited to his/her educational objectives.

The examination taken by a student in challenging a course shall be comprehensive and cover all course objectives. Successful completion of the examination shall be at a level which indicates mastery of the content and/or reasonable likelihood for success in the next higher course.

Legal Reference:

Education Code

51225.3 Requirements for graduation

64001 Single plan for student achievement

Board adopted: May 20, 2008

**SAN LORENZO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**

Instruction

AR 6155 (a)

CHALLENGING COURSES BY EXAMINATION

Petition to Challenge Course

Two months prior to the end of the current semester, currently enrolled high school students who are interested in challenging a course shall file a petition form with their Principal/Designee. Entering ninth grade students and new enrollees shall file a petition with the Principal/Designee of the school in which they are enrolled and take the examination at an appropriate time determined by the Principal. Petition forms shall be available to students upon request at each school site and at the District Office.

The Principal/Designee shall inform the course instructor/student's counselor and the appropriate department chairperson of the student's intent to challenge the course. The student shall be allowed to challenge the course by examination at the discretion of the Principal/Designee. The student's petition form shall be signed by the Principal/Designee, the student seeking to challenge and the student's parent/guardian. For entering ninth grade students and new enrollees, the petition form needs to be signed by the Principal/Designee, the student and the student's parent/guardian. The student's petition shall include the following:

1. Grades in courses of the subject area of the challenge;
2. Recommendations from the student's prior teacher in the subject which the student seeks to challenge;
3. Substitute courses(s) to be taken by the student;
4. Student's rationale or reasons for challenging a specific course.

The Principal/Designee shall consider each of the four factors listed above, as well as the general best interest of the student in determining whether to sign the petition form requesting to challenge a course. If the Principal/Designee refuses to sign the petition form, the student may not challenge the course.

1. During their enrollment in high school, students may challenge no more than four courses which meet graduation requirements unless a waiver of limitations is made to and approved by the Board of Education. While successful challenge will exempt a student from those specific courses required for graduation, the student is still responsible for the total units required for graduation.
2. A student may challenge a particular course only once.

3. A student may challenge only one course per semester. This may be a course in which the student is enrolled or any other approved course offering. While a successful challenge will exempt a student from those specific courses required for graduation, the student is still responsible for the total units required for graduation.
4. A student may not challenge a course below his/her ability or grade placement for credit.
5. Courses not specifically required for graduation may not be challenged.
6. Physical Education classes may not be challenged.
7. Driver Education classes may not be challenged.
8. A student may not challenge a course for make-up.

Test Content and Administration

The Principal and appropriate department chairperson may wish to collaborate with appropriate teachers in the development of appropriate district-wide testing procedures and materials for the classes that may be challenged within each department. Departmentally-developed performance objectives shall determine the content and the type of evaluation to be used. The test may be written, oral, by demonstration or any combination thereof.

The type of test administered shall depend on the course outline. The department chairperson or designee shall supervise the administration and evaluation of tests pertaining to the department.

Only "Pass" and "No Credit" marks will be issued for challenging a course by examination. The student must earn an A or B grade "Pass" on the test and GPA is not affected by the mark demonstrating mastery of the applicable standards to receive credit for challenging a course. If the student receives a "Pass" mark, the transcript shall reflect that the grade "Pass" mark was earned by challenge.

Board adopted: May 20, 2008