

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Trustees desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment. A student shall receive a diploma of graduation from high school only after completing the prescribed course of study established by the district.

Graduation Requirements

In order to receive a diploma of graduation a student shall complete a minimum of 230 total units which must include the following required courses:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Year/Semester</u>
English	4 years (40 units)
Mathematics* to include Algebra 1	3 years (30 units)
Science to include biological and physical sciences	2 years (20 units)
Social Studies to include United States History and Geography; World History, Culture and Geography; a one-semester course in American Government and Civics*, and a one-semester course in Economics*	3 years (30 units)
Visual or Performing Arts, Foreign Language, or American Sign Language*	1 year (10 units)
Physical Education, unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code provisions	2 years (20 units)
Health	1 sem (5 units)
Computer Applications	1 sem (5 units)

The above individual courses may be combined and taught as interdisciplinary classes.

* See course alternatives in Credit Across the Curriculum

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

Credit Across the Curriculum

1. Students may use 10 units of record keeping, accounting, computer programming, personal finance, consumer math, auto, and **Robotics and Electronics Technology** to meet third year mathematics requirements once they have met the algebra requirement.
2. Credits earned in all wood, metal, drafting, and clothing classes, including HROP, may be applied to fulfill the fine arts requirement.
3. Students completing four years of agriculture that includes Ag Economics and Government will have fulfilled the economics and government requirements for graduation.
4. Students may use ten units of Agriculture and Natural Resources or **Agriculture and Soil Chemistry** to meet physical science requirement.
5. Students may use ten units of Agriculture 1 or Agriculture Biology to meet life science requirements.

Algebra I Requirement for the Classes of 2005 or Later

Beginning in the 2004-05 school year, at least one mathematical course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses required for completion in grades 9-12, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I.

Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework that meets or exceeds state academic content standards shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

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.

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

Exit Exam for the Classes of 2006 and Later

Beginning in the 2005-06 school year, each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Code 60851, 60859)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student who does not demonstrate “sufficient progress” as defined in Board policy, toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code 37252, 60851)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

(cf. 6177 - Summer School)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Students who have not passed one or both parts of the exit exam by the end of grade 12 shall have the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade 12 or until they have passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first. (Education Code 37254)

Differential Graduation for Students Who Have Completed Local Requirements with the Exception of Algebra I and/or the California High School Exit Exam

The purpose of the Certificate of Educational Achievement is to provide the Board with the option of presenting a certificate of achievement, based on specific criteria, to students who do not qualify for a high school diploma because they have been unable to meet the competency requirements of Algebra I and/or the California High School Exit Exam in language arts or mathematics. The certificate of educational achievement is not equivalent to a high school experience and to make available further educational, job training, and employment options for students.

Certificate of Educational Achievement Requirements

A student who has made a good faith effort to meet the graduation requirements may be awarded a certificate of educational achievement if the student has also met the following criteria:

1. Completed the program of study required by the Board, earning passing grades with the exception of Algebra I.
2. Attempted to pass the California High School Exit Exam
3. Demonstrated satisfactory attendance
4. Satisfactorily participated in tutoring and other academic support services made available by or approved by the school.

A student who meets the criteria specified above shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and school activity related to graduation.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

Retroactive Diplomas

The district may retroactively grant a high school diploma to a former student who was interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who is an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that he/she was enrolled in a district school immediately preceding the internment or military service and he/she did not receive a diploma because his/her education was interrupted due to the internment or military service. (Education Code 51430)

In addition, the Board may retroactively grant a diploma to a deceased former student who satisfies the above conditions. The diploma shall be received by the deceased student's next of kin. (Education Code 51430)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35186 *Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures*
- 37252 *Supplemental instructional programs*
- 37254 *Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit exam by end of grade 12*
- 37254.1 *Required student participation in supplemental instruction*
- 47612 *Enrollment in charter school*
- 48200 *Compulsory attendance*
- 48412 *Certificate of proficiency*
- 48430 *Continuation education schools and classes*
- 48645.5 *Acceptance of coursework*
- 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*
- 51250-51251 *Assistance to military dependents*
- 51410-51412 *Diplomas*
- 51420-51427 *High school equivalency certificates*
- 51450-51455 *Golden State Seal Merit Diploma*
- 51745 *Independent study restrictions*
- 52378 *Supplemental school counseling program*
- 56390-56392 *Recognition for educational achievement, special education*
- 60850-60859 *High school exit examination*
- 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*

COURT DECISIONS

- O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452*

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

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

WEB SITES

- CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
- California Department of Education, California High School Exit Examination:
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>