

# Board Policy

## High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

### Instruction

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma to enable them to take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

### Course Requirements

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete at least the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

SUBJECT	CREDITS	DETAILS
English	40	Four years of College Prep Classes
Math	20	Two courses of Math inclusive of 10 credits of Algebra 1
Science	20	10 Units must be laboratory-based life science and 10 units must be laboratory-based physical science
Social Science	40	Geography, World, U.S., Government/Economics
Fine Art	10	Must be 10 units in the same class
World Language	10	Must be 10 units in the same class
Physical Education	20	
Career Technical Ed	10	
Electives	70	

### **TOTAL CREDITS: 240**

Education Code 51224.5 provides that, as part of the mathematics requirement, students must complete coursework at least equivalent to state content standards for Algebra I. Completion of algebra in grades 7-12 in less than two courses will apply toward satisfying the mathematics requirements; however, all students are required to take at least two years of mathematics in high school, completing 20 credits inclusive of 10 credits of Algebra 1.

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.

**ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
English	40	Four courses in English
Math	20	Including 10 credits Algebra 1
Science	20	Two courses science, Physical and Life
Social Studies	30	World, U.S. Government/Economics
World Language or Fine Arts	10	One course World Language or Fine Arts
Physical Education	20	Two courses Physical Education
Career Technical Education	10	
Electives	50	

\*Career Guidance and Practicum to be embedded in elective and/or required courses.

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 200****SIERRA HILLS INDEPENDENT STUDY HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
English	40	Four courses English
Math	20	Two courses Math including 10 credits of Algebra
Science	20	Two courses Science, Physical and Life
World History	10	One course World History
U.S. History	10	One course U.S. History
Economics	5	One course Economics
Government	5	One course Government
Geography	5	
Career Technical Education	10	
State Requirements	5	
World Language or Visual/Performing Arts	10	One course World Language or Visual/Performing Arts
Physical Education	20	Two courses Physical Education
Electives	20	Five courses Electives

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 180**

## Exemptions and Waivers

A foster youth, homeless student, or former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program who transfers into the district any time after completing his/her second year of high school shall be required to complete all graduation requirements specified in Ed Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional district-adopted graduation requirements, unless determined by the Superintendent or designee that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of transfer, any student shall be notified of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)  
 (cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)  
 (cf. 6173.2 - Education for Children of Military Families)  
 (cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

## Certificates of Completion

Certificates of Completion will only be provided for students with severe handicaps who have met all applicable graduation requirements, whose IEP goals have been met and shows IEP's have had the Certificate of Completion listed as the educational outcome.

## Retroactive Diplomas

Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through the 2014-2015 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)

In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to: (Education Code 51430, 51440)

1. Former students who were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district school immediately preceding the internment or military service and did not receive a diploma because their education was interrupted due to the internment or military service in those wars

Deceased former students who satisfy these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin

2. Veterans who entered the military service of the United States while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school

## Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant honorary high school diplomas to: (Education Code 51225.5)

1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of study ordinarily required for graduation, and who is returning to the home country following the completion of one academic year in the district.

(cf. 6145.6 – International Exchange)

2. A student who is terminally ill

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable for the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district. (Education Code 51225.5)

### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

47612 Enrollment in charter school  
48200 Compulsory attendance  
48412 Certificate of proficiency  
48430 Continuation education schools and classes  
48645.5 Acceptance of coursework  
48980 Required notification at beginning of term  
49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children  
51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life  
51224.5 Algebra instruction  
51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements  
51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course  
51225.3 High school graduation  
51225.35 Mathematics course requirements; computer science  
51225.36 Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education 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  
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education  
60851.5 Suspension of high school exit examination  
60851.6 Retroactive diploma; completion of all graduation requirements except high school exit examination

66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria

67386 Student safety; affirmative consent standard

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation

COURT DECISIONS

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

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

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

California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

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CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
San Andreas, California