

Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements

Status: DRAFT

| Last Revised Date: 04/13/2021

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

(cf. 5127 – Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)
(cf. 5147 – Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6011 – Academic Standards)
(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 220 required and elective semester units of instruction during grades 9-12, **with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:**

1. Four courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.91 – Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Three courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

Students shall complete at At least one mathematics course **that meets the**, 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 or Mathematics I. **Students may complete such coursework** (Education Code 51224.5) ~~Completion, prior to grade 9 provided, of algebra coursework that they also meets or exceeds state academic content standards shall satisfy the algebra coursework requirement but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-1 (Education Code 51224.5)~~

Students may be awarded up to one mathematics course credit for successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category c" (mathematics) course based on the "a-g" course requirements for college admission, **which may be counted toward additional graduation requirements in mathematics.** (Education Code code 51225.3, 51225.35)

(cf. 6151 – Placement in Mathematics Courses)

3. Two courses in science, including one course in biological and one course in physical **sciences** science (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.93 – Science Instruction)

4. Three **courses**(3) years in social studies, including one course in United States history and geography; one course in world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics **(Education Code 51225.3)**

(cf. 6142.3 – Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.94 – History-Social Science Instruction)

5. Beginning with the class of 2022, one course in visual or performing arts. (Education Code 51223)

(cf. 6142.6 – Visual and Performing Arts Education)

6. Beginning with the class of 2022, one course in a language other than English

(cf. 6142.2 – World/Foreign Language Instruction)

7. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.7 – Physical Education)

8. Beginning with the class of 2022, one course in Advanced Placement (AP), Career Technical Education (CTE), approved Dual Enrollment college course, or International Baccalaureate (IB) course

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a CTE course shall be aligned to the CTE model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.

6142.2 – World Language Instruction)
(cf. 6178 – Career Technical Education **Code 51225.3**)

(cf. 6142.7 – Physical Education and Activity)
(cf. 6142.1 – Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)
(cf. 6142.4 – Service Learning/Community Service Classes)
(cf. 6142.8 – Comprehensive Health Education)

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

Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

District students are required to complete graduation course requirements specified above, including the requirements imposed by Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board. However, a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, shall be exempted from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption shall not apply if the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school.

-Within 30 days of the transfer **into a school** or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. **(Education Code 51225.1)**

If during the 2020-21 school year a student was in the third or fourth year of high school and is not on track to graduate in four years, the district shall exempt the student from any local graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3. (Education Code 51225)

Additional Opportunities to Complete Required Coursework

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a student who was enrolled in the third or fourth year of high school during the 2020-21 school year and is not on track to graduate in the 2020-21 or 2021-22 school years the opportunity to complete the statewide coursework required for graduation, which may include, but is not limited to, completion of the coursework through a fifth year of instruction, credit recovery, or other opportunity to complete the required coursework. (Education Code 51225)

(cf. 1312.3 – Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 5145.6 – Parental Notifications)
(cf. 6173 – Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 – Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6173.2 – Education of Children of Military Families)

(cf. 6173.3 – Education for Juvenile Court School Students)
(cf. 6175 – Migrant Education Program)

Retroactive Diplomas

Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 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 former students who: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Departed California against their will while in grade 12 and did not receive a diploma because the departure interrupted their education, provided that they were in good academic standing at the time of the departure

Persons may be considered to have departed California against their will if they were in custody of a government agency and were transferred to another state, were subject to a lawful order from a court or government agency that authorized their removal from California, were subject to a lawful order and were permitted to depart California before being removed from California pursuant to the lawful order, were removed or were permitted to depart voluntarily pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or departed due to other circumstances determined by the district that are consistent with the purposes of Education Code 48204.4.

In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall consider any coursework that may have been completed outside of the United States or through online or virtual courses.

2. Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or 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.

3. Are 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
4. Were in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year as of March 1, 2020, and were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma 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 student's home country following the completion of one academic school year in the district

(cf. 6145.6 – International Exchange)

2. A student who is terminally ill

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

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References

	Description
5 CCR 1600-1651	Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 47612	Enrollment in charter school
Ed. Code 48200	Compulsory attendance
Ed. Code 48204.4	Parents/guardians departing California against their will
Ed. Code 48412	Certificate of proficiency
Ed. Code 48430	Continuation education schools and classes
Ed. Code 48645.5	Former juvenile court school students, enrollment
Ed. Code 48980	Required notification at beginning of term
Ed. Code 49701	Provisions of the interstate compact on educational opportunities for military children
Ed. Code 51224	Skills and knowledge required for adult life
Ed. Code 51224.5	Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12
Ed. Code 51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.2	Former juvenile court school student defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course
Ed. Code 51225.3	High school graduation
Ed. Code 51225.35	Mathematics course requirements; computer science
Ed. Code 51225.36	Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation
Ed. Code 51225.5	Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students
Ed. Code 51225.6	Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation
Ed. Code 51228	Graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51230	Credit for community emergency response training
Ed. Code 51240-51246	Exemptions from requirements
Ed. Code 51250-51251	Assistance to military dependents
Ed. Code 51410-51413	Diplomas
Ed. Code 51420-51427	High school equivalency certificates
Ed. Code 51430	Retroactive high school diplomas
Ed. Code 51440	Retroactive high school diplomas
Ed. Code 51450-51455	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
Ed. Code 51745	Independent study
Ed. Code 56390-56392	Recognition for educational achievement, special education
Ed. Code 66204	Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria
Ed. Code 67386	Student safety; affirmative consent standard

Management Resources References

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

Website	University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/h6xuwR1faZdgmTplusZLLyXxA==
Website	California Department of Education, High School - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/Rvp3XpluswycjdbcyIbqTXF1Q==
Website	CSBA - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/W3QxkK2FPsDsQBnMIENxGg==

Cross References

Description

0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/Oa8UxEDUhg6BH2zsd274XA==
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/8eaD94eHfiVAA8KyIGL0hw==
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/e0UHI42cO96a1vslshYwmMow==
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/9b8zcljUydNSplusMZSo1Avcw==
4112.2	Certification - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/q8l4slshXu4CrrLkoslshYlmslshFyQ==
4112.2	Certification - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/paMav8h5DccUYGHCC4Z2sA==
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/7CFthj3BY9dlxP32k8qPig==
5145.6	Parental Notifications - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/aumlFEWhRQTqmF8OKcrwjQ==
5145.6-E(1)	Parental Notifications - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/5KtCGKwRqTKUDplusFgDOn0OQ==
5147	Dropout Prevention - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/izehOEVa2aD9WbplusDzBxt7g==
6000	Concepts And Roles - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/VcnDCn9pslshzoAvdQnkvWBslshw==
6011	Academic Standards - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/JGwlj5Qt4sslshSu4aJhZ5XAQ==
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/61Y9cvRslshKoW6mmj04arBBA==
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/b3H6sslshVg4w5Fn8pgCBjCIA==
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/LV0CKpKiXb7ajC5fo52P5g==
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/HcpwY3M8LuLLXehUiEcpYg==
6142.3	Civic Education - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/KSOU8NZcpluskLMKFJ1FgJfWA==
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/g2vQkw4IAFwZ8KKrUXZjXQ==
6142.6	Visual And Performing Arts Education - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/N738O7slshud1oI7mrvIplusSOfw==
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/wLhC38lfitHbiftplusu8Slqg==
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/st47PplusnstvXplus2ge0izZVwA==

6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/GVzAgUNrmwjxJNKmsgl1rQ==
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/IJW9DH2z29vRFUTVfplusjDjQ==
6142.91	Reading/Language Arts Instruction - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/02VDBLywyuibp5MoyXyThA==
6142.92	Mathematics Instruction - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/esLsyR41A2MV6HpWvUso8A==
6142.93	Science Instruction - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/QEYGjOljqbrt0UeG8YxrbQ==
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/kOgxeL28LBIK6rQB9O3AdA==
6143	Courses Of Study - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/365rWOhUCi3xjIGBdJNNfQ==
6143	Courses Of Study - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/GBuL.GnoxMa2wooqOBTyCslshA==
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/kcnplusEMDbUq3oAi14H67CXg==
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/HodC5SBhYgTQ4CslshjPho8xQ==
6145.2	Athletic Competition - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/mjzVr4hwth0plusJplusU0vFgStw==
6145.2	Athletic Competition - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/li7fyXj9QEE0CqwFCiOzbQ==
6145.6	International Exchange - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/IUCopV0dbplusBHBslshi1Slcovw==
6145.6	International Exchange - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/nERqrl02JGslshbveghplusxBxw==
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/vNLJqJWKuczmg02QhME2bA==
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/bbCMK1hNccL51plustlBttnEA==
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/pluslCdxZAfc2U4cDislshOPWQ==
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/wbjnwnpj14iVAhhEsqqlslshw==
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/GOZjZy1jQRt3nrE11RrplusNg==
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/0NBie0bZeM0SaJ6c5TJzsg==
6146.4	Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/T28oQRtmVquzeoSqHONNAQ==
6151	Class Size - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/kwwjn3GzfZzjnKFslsh8D3wQA==
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/jBnGwRfYpluswM53PV7BA4JXA==
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/HxRzedqeXgy1p4plusttOcCAQ==

6155	Challenging Courses By Examination - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/U0cAv6PX3otslshp552yGreZQ==
6155	Challenging Courses By Examination - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/aUg6UDaNytPWNtdCNIN4BA==
6158	Independent Study - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/kldaCe82xgAYe4vPKMFA5Q==
6158	Independent Study - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/6T4cG3xYs8mchlpgJLp3vA==
6159	Individualized Education Program - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/3vVDizDulqY8l7eXsslshJApA==
6159	Individualized Education Program - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/3on5FNplusCvSTDslshj1eANpc2Q==
6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/oYXKslsh80JHeH45DKeevTeA==
6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/yN432YBtjSslsh9PRUbo6bmg==
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/GmQp0w7DhRvK1m3vP0cXfW==
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/36O7l0MprlTMVXSH2aUCslshA==
6161.1-E(1)	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/b9DR42M1EdCANrzwKB7O8g==
6162.5	Student Assessment - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/O1pOcHMRQnwXK2yNAfbMyg==
6172.1	Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/bgKu6tf8Gvy3BY51vVI9QA==
6172.1	Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/VQw6h1o0VfyCpluskNUV9PBAG==
6173	Education For Homeless Children - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/txeOyoBAokde03EL8jzLslshQ==
6173	Education For Homeless Children - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/RuKkaP9U0ZlZTrvBvW6Wjw==
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/j10m5VbLmj8ppMRz0d6dkQ==
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/suCMRgbiqOO4rvJsmX2tqw==
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/NurplusRF8plus3CpJPOwG1JplusPMA==
6173.3	Education For Juvenile Court School Students - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/trlJ1slshYmZ1NnslshMeBOph3ww==
6175	Migrant Education Program - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/PJhslshJvWeC0arnpiW695XRg==
6175	Migrant Education Program - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/2bkhyJMJKihJpBiZplusFKMig==
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/e9rJeJXTZw5XHpopPeKbZg==
6177	Summer Learning Programs - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/eLTeXCuC038gdDjDQNpyTw==
6178	Career Technical Education - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/X7b5JEzoRKslshww2JugXgaPw==

- 6178 Career Technical Education -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/IKS6G1GbwN6vkN4aZ4filw==>
- 6178.1 Work-Based Learning -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/N7S7GUgNDSv3dKJI2Jn7eQ==>
- 6178.1 Work-Based Learning -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/EKX11J4mwAecbMO3BEnO8Q==>
- 6178.2 Regional Occupational Center/Program -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/Jc1u7vpV6ST8UnysQFNtrQ==>
- 6179 Supplemental Instruction -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/N8PzvofplusYxxwVAB2o2z4Zg==>
- 6184 Continuation Education -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/yvxnNaJRq3tN2QNASpVDsg==>
- 6184 Continuation Education -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/n2vXlrDOabjvPYtxuapluHQH==>
- 6200 Adult Education -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/C5HQcSV420mq8fF5fPWllw==>
- 6200 Adult Education -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/H9Tg3dUdMslshoK5bnnSOZplusLg==>
- 9000 Role Of The Board -
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/yCFHLIFLUDCtfgpluseQHTjg==>