

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

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, beginning with the class of 2025, shall complete the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

1. 40 semester credits (four courses) in English (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)*

2. 30 semester credits (three courses) in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Algebra I or Mathematics I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (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" course based on the "a-g" course requirements for college admission. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)

*(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)*

*(cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)*

3. 25 semester credits in science, including biological (10 semester credits) and physical sciences (10 semester credits) (Education Code 51225.3); and Health Education (5 semester

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credits) including instruction in sexual harassment and violence, sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention instruction and instruction in compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation. (Education Code 67386, 51225.6)

*(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)*

4. 35 semester credits in social studies, including United States history and geography (10 semester credits); world history, culture, and geography(10 semester credits); a one-semester course in American government and civics (5 semester credits); a one-semester course in economics (5 semester credits) (Education Code 51225.3); and beginning with the class of 2026, a semester course in Ethnic Studies (5 semester credits)

*(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)*

*(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)*

5. 70 semester credits in electives with two courses (20 semester credits) in visual or performing arts, world language, or career technical education (CTE) (i.e., one course in visual or performing arts and one CTE course, two world language courses, or any such combination). For purposes of this requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in world language. (Education Code 51225.3)

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. (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6142.2 - World Language Instruction)*

*(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)*

*(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)*

*(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)*

6. 20 semester credits (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 and Activity)*

7. 60 hours of community service. Completion of a course in community emergency response training can be credited towards the 60 hours. (Education Code 51230, 51225.3)

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*(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 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)

*(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

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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. 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)

### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

47612 Enrollment in charter school

48200 Compulsory attendance

48204.4 Parents/guardians departing California against their will

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 Student 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

51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation

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51228 Graduation requirements  
51230 Credit for community emergency response training  
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements  
51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents  
51410-51412 Diplomas  
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates  
51430 Retroactive high school diplomas  
51440 Retroactive high school diplomas  
51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma  
51745 Independent study restrictions  
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education  
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 pupils from grade 12 and credit toward graduation  
4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

**COURT DECISIONS**

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

Policy adopted: June 16, 1998

Policy revised: February 6, 2001

Policy revised: April 16, 2002

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Policy revised: January 10, 2006

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**CULVER CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Culver City, California**