

BP 6146.1

High School Graduation Requirements

Instruction

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma so that they can take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment. Having rigorous graduation requirements for all students that match university admission expectations better prepares graduates for more opportunities. Providing options addresses many individual needs also allows individuals to develop their own pathway to their future. The significant effects of the Global Pandemic coupled with the current state of our educational system created the need to reevaluate graduation requirements along with implementation timelines. Graduation requirements will begin to increase in rigor starting with the class of 2026 and will conclude with the credits and course requirements as described in this board policy.

(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)

The credit and course requirements for SUSD students are described in Section A below. There are three credit and course plans described in Section A. These include: Plan 1 SUSD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS; Plan 2 (Foreign Born Students 15 or Older); Plan 3 (Foster, Probation Involved, Homeless/Transitional Youth Transferring after their second year of high school or Students with Interrupted Formal Education entering SUSD at 16 or older); Section B below describes the requirement to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). (Note: The CAHSEE requirement is currently suspended under California law.) Section C below describes the Alternative to the High School Diploma. Section D describes retroactive diplomas. Section E describes the awarding of an additional honor, the Seal of College and Career Readiness.

SECTION A: CREDIT AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete a minimum of the following numbers of courses in the subjects specified, each course having duration of one year, unless otherwise specified. These credits may be achieved through traditional classes or alternative means that have been approved such as dual enrollment in a community college, on-line courses, summer school, adult education, work experience, proficiency tests, or classes from other accredited institutions. The requirements to obtain approval to receive credit through these alternative means shall be outlined in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent. To ensure each graduate achieves

UC/CSU eligibility, the specific grades that must be earned to receive credit for courses in each subject will also be contained in the Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

Plan 1 - SUSD GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

COURSES	SEMESTERS	NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED
a. History/Social Science (including US History, World History and American Government/Economics)	6	30
b. English	8	40
c. Mathematics	6	30
d. Laboratory Science (one year from biological and physical sciences.)	6	30
e. World Languages (Two years of the same language other than English required.)	4	20
f. Arts	2	10
Physical Education	4	20
g. College Prep Electives Course	2	10
Ethnic Studies	2	10
General electives	6	30
Total Credits Required		230

Students with disabilities intending to earn a regular high school diploma must complete the District's credit and course requirements. IEP Teams shall consider accommodations and/or supports in these required courses and/or credits, which shall be documented in the Individualized Education Program. 504 Teams shall consider accommodations in these required courses and/or credits, as specified in the IEP or 504 Plan.

Plan 2 – FOREIGN BORN STUDENTS 15 OR OLDER

Requirement to Sign a Waiver: In order to utilize Plan 2, an eligible student (and, as appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil) must sign a written waiver to acknowledge that Plan 2 does not satisfy the UC/CSU Admission a-g requirements, and may affect the pupil's ability to gain admission to a post- secondary institution. The student shall also receive information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges. The counseling and waiver process for utilizing Plan 2 shall be further outlined in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

If the District determines that the foster, probation involved, homeless/transitional youth or student with interrupted formal education is reasonably able to complete the school district's graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school, the District shall inform and counsel the student about this right, as further outlined in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

Foreign-born students who enter the District and are at least 15 years of age by September 1st of their entering year will be placed in the 10th grade. Students in this category may obtain a diploma by meeting the following course and credit requirements:

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	SEMESTERS CREDITS	CATEGORY DESCRIPTION
a. History/Social Science (including US History, World History and American Government/Economics)	6	30
b. English	6	30
b. Mathematics	6	30
d. Laboratory Science (one year each from biological and physical sciences)	4	20
e. World Languages (Two years of the same language other than English required)	4	20
*f. SArts ee addi tional notes at the end of Section A.	2	10
Physical Education	4	20
g. College Prep Electives	2	10

Ethnic Studies	2	10
Total Credits Required		180

Students who are 14 by September 1st of their entering year will be placed in 9th grade, and will be required to meet Plan 1 graduation requirements. Students with less than 8 years of schooling will be placed in the 9th grade.

Plan 3 – Foster, Probation Involved, Homeless/Transitional Youth Transferring After Their Second Year of High School or Newcomer English Learner Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)

Requirement to Sign a Waiver: In order to utilize Plan 3, an eligible student (and, as appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil) must sign a written waiver to acknowledge that Plan 3 does not satisfy the UC/CSU Admission a-g requirements, and may affect the pupil's ability to gain admission to a post-secondary institution. The student shall also receive information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges. The counseling and waiver process for utilizing Plan 3 shall be further outlined in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

If the District determines that the foster, probation involved, homeless/transitional youth or student with interrupted formal education is reasonably able to complete the District's graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school, the District shall inform and counsel the student about this right, as further outlined in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

Foster, probation involved, homeless/transitional youth that transfer between schools any time after their completion of their second year of high school, any student graduating from a Stockton Unified Alternative Education High School, or students with limited or interrupted formal education who have been enrolled in a U.S. high school for at least two years at the time of planned graduation and who will reach age 18 with fewer than 100 credits are not required to complete courses beyond state requirements, unless the District makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school.

COURSES	SEMESTERS	NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED
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a. History/Social Studies(including U.S. History, World History, and American Government/Economics)	6	30
b. English	6	30
c. Mathematics	4	20
d. Laboratory Science (one year each from biological and physical sciences)	4	20
e. Arts or World Language	2	10
f. Physical Education	4	20
Ethnic Studies	1	5
Total Credits Required		135

World Languages

- An approved course in American Sign Language shall be deemed as meeting this requirement.
- Students studying a World Language in a private school at the same time they are enrolled in a district high school may qualify to receive high school course credit for their instruction. Up to 20 credits, at a maximum of 10 credits per year, will be granted to students who meet the criteria listed in the Administrative Regulation regarding alternative means for meeting credit and course requirements.
- English Learner (EL) students who can demonstrate proficiency in their primary language that is equal to or exceeding what is expected of students after two years of classroom World Language study may be exempted from the World Language requirement. The purpose of this exemption is to provide secondary EL students the opportunity to take additional ELD courses and to give recognition to the primary language skills that they have already acquired. In no way is the intent of the exemption to discourage English Learner students from taking World Language courses. All students planning to attend college should investigate the foreign language requirement.

Physical Education

- Students must pass 5 of 6 sections of the FitnessGram by the end of 10th grade to be eligible for a 2 year exemption from Physical Education. Students who fail to pass the FitnessGram by the end of 10th grade will be required to re-enroll in PE until s/he passes

the FitnessGram or meets exemption criteria outlined in Board Policy. Failure to pass the FitnessGram is not grounds for withholding a diploma.

- At least two years of Physical Education are required to graduate unless otherwise exempted pursuant of Board Policy.

Children of Military Families

The Superintendent or designee shall use best efforts to waive specific courses required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed in another district or shall provide reasonable justification for denial. Should a waiver not be granted to a student who would qualify to graduate from the sending school, the Superintendent or designee shall use best efforts to provide an alternative means of acquiring required coursework so that graduation may occur on time (EC 49701).

SECTION B: CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAMINATION

Senate Bill (SB) 172 suspended the administration of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) and the requirement that students completing grade twelve successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation from high school for the 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18 school years. SB 172 also requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) to convene an advisory panel to provide recommendations to the SSPI on the continuation of the high school exit examination and on alternative pathways to satisfy the high school graduation requirements pursuant to California Education Code sections 51224.5 and 51225.3.

SECTION C: ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Certificate of Completion. Instead of a high school diploma, a student with disabilities may be awarded a certificate of completion if the student has met one of the following requirements: (i) satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Board of Education of the District in which the student attended school or the District with jurisdiction over the student as identified in his/her IEP, (ii) satisfactorily met his/her goals and objectives during high school as identified in his/her IEP, (iii) satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.

A student who obtains a Certificate of Completion shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a graduating student of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate. The right to participate in graduation ceremonies does not equate a certificate of completion with a high school diploma.

This High School Graduation Requirements Policy replaces existing Board Policies BP6105.2, BP6105.3, and BP6105.4.

SECTION D: RETROACTIVE DIPLOMAS

Until July 31, 2018, any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 school year or a subsequent school year and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma. This language shall be removed from this policy upon expiration of this requirement (Education Code 60851.6).

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 I 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. A deceased former student who satisfies these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by his/her next of kin (Education Code 51430).

In addition, the district may grant a diploma to a veteran who entered the military service of the United States while he/she was a district student in grade 12 and who had completed the first half of the work required for grade 12. (Education Code 51440) (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)

SECTION E: THE SEAL OF COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Beginning with the Class of 2019, the state of California indicates which students are designated College/Career “prepared” based on a variety of measurements. Students that are Prepared will have an addition seal attached to their diploma and the designation shall be added to their final official transcript. For more information on the College/Career Indicator, refer to: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/index.asp>.

The criteria is:

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments: Score of Level 3 “Standard Met” or higher on both English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics or
- Advanced Placement (AP) Exams: Score of 3 or higher on two AP exams or
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams: Score of 4 or higher on two IB exams or
- Completion of Dual Enrollment: Two semesters or three quarters of college coursework with a grade of C- or better in academic/CTE subjects where college credit is awarded or
- University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) a-g requirements:

Complete a-g course requirements with a grade of C- or better plus one of the Additional Criteria from the box below or

- Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathway: Pathway completion with a C- or better in the capstone course plus one of the Additional Criteria from the box below:

Additional Criteria

- Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment Scores: o Level 3 or higher on ELA and at least a Level 2 “Standard Nearly Met” in mathematics, or
o Level 3 or higher on mathematics and at least a Level 2 in ELA
- or
- One semester/two quarters of Dual Enrollment with a grade of C- or better in academic/CTE subjects
- or
- Score of 3 on one AP exam or score of 4 on one IB Exam (for a-g requirement only)
- or
- Completion of CTE Pathway (for a-g requirement only)

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
 51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation
51228 Graduation requirements
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents
51410-51413 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 students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
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>