

High School Graduation Requirements -- (Beginning with the Class of 2009)

The Governing Board 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.

Credit Requirements (Beginning with the Class of 2009)**Comprehensive High School**

Beginning with the class of 2009, to obtain a diploma of graduation from a comprehensive high school, students shall complete at least 220 credits including the following course credits in grades 9-12:

- 40 English credits
- 30 Social Studies credits including:
 - 10 World History
 - 10 United States History
 - 5 Civics
 - 5 Economics
- 30 Mathematics credits (At least one mathematics course shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I.)
(Up to 10 of the 30 credits required in math may be met by taking Algebra I and/or geometry in middle school. However these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)
- 20 Science Credits including:
 - 10 Physical Science
 - 10 Life Science
- 20 Physical Education Credits
- 20 Credits that are a combination of any two of the three areas – Applied Arts, Visual and Performing Arts, World Language. (Up to 10 credits required in World Language may be taken in middle school. However, these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)
- 60 Additional credits of the student's choice

Continuation High School

Beginning with the class of 2009 to obtain a diploma of graduation from a continuation high school, students shall complete at least 220 credits including the following course credits by grade 12:

- 40 English credits
- 30 Social Studies credits including:
 - 10 World History
 - 10 United States History
 - 5 Civics
 - 5 Economics

- 30 Mathematics credits (At least one mathematics course shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I.) (Up to 10 of the 30 credits required in math may be met by taking Algebra I and/or geometry in middle school. However these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)
- 20 Science Credits including:
 - 10 Physical Science
 - 10 Life Science
 - 20 Physical Education Credits
 - 20 Credits that are a combination of any two of the three areas – Applied Arts, Visual and Performing Arts, World Language. (Up to 10 credits required in World Language may be taken in middle school. However, these middle school courses cannot be used to meet the 220 high school credit graduation requirement.)
 - 60 Additional credits of the student’s choice

In the case of a course that is listed in more than one subject area, a student may apply such a course to only one subject area requirement.

Student Class Designation

Students earn 5 units of credit per semester course passed. Students’ class designation will be based upon earned credits:

- 0-39 earned credits – Freshman
- 40-99 earned credits – Sophomore
- 100-159 earned credits – Junior
- 160-completion (220 required to graduate) – Senior

Course Load

All 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students at the comprehensive high schools are required to take 6 classes each semester. All 12th grade students at the comprehensive high schools are required to take a minimum of 5 classes each semester.

Conditions for Meeting Graduation Requirements

Courses taken in summer school may apply toward meeting course requirements.

Enrollment in physical education is required in grade 9. An additional 10 units is required in grades 10-12. Additional physical education courses may be taken for elective credit in grades 10-12.

220 units represent a minimum requirement. Students are encouraged to earn at least 240 units of credit prior to receiving a diploma.

Supplemental Methods of Earning Credit for Graduation

In addition to credits earned through attendance at district schools, full credit may be accepted (with principal approval) for comparable work successfully completed through the following:

- Courses offered by other public high schools;
- Portable Assisted Study Sequence (PASS) Program;
- Courses offered by accredited private high schools;
- Concurrent enrollment in community college or accredited college or university as provided for in the Education Code (Dual credit may be awarded);
- Courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs;
- University of California high school correspondence courses;
- Courses offered by an accredited adult school; and/or
- Courses offered through the district's Independent Study program.

The governing board shall grant to a pupil for the satisfactory completion of work experience education established under Education Code Section 51760 credit in an amount not to exceed a total of 40 semester credits made up of one or a combination of two or more of the following types:

(a) For Exploratory Work Experience Education: Ten (10) credits for each semester, with a maximum of twenty (20) credits earned in two semesters.

(b) For General Work Experience Education: Ten (10) credits for each semester with a maximum of forty (40) credits.

(c) For Vocational Work Experience Education: Ten (10) credits for each semester with a maximum of forty (40) credits.

Alternative Means of Meeting Course Requirements

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.

Issuance of Diplomas

Students will receive a diploma from the district school in which they were last regularly enrolled and attending classes.

Students must complete all graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation exercises or receive a diploma. Students who do not meet all requirements after eight full semesters (grades 9-12) may complete their high school graduation requirements and receive a diploma from the last regular school of attendance by:

- Enrollment in summer school immediately following the student's eighth semester, provided no more than 10 units are required for graduation;
- Enrollment as a fifth-year student if less than 18 years of age at the time of enrollment, or if enrollment is in the semester which follows the student's eighth semester; or
- Completion of course work equivalent to that not completed at the high school by enrolling in and receiving credits from:
 - a community college,

- an accredited adult school,
- an accredited private school,
- another public high school, and/or
- University of California high school correspondence or online courses.

Exit Exam Beginning with the Class of 2006

Beginning in the 2005-2006 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. Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student who does not demonstrate “sufficient progress,” as defined in Board policy, toward passing the exit examination. (See Board Policies 6162.52 –Instruction - High School Exit Examination and 6179 –Instruction - Supplemental Instructions.)

Legal Reference:

Education Code

37252	Supplemental instructional programs
48430	Continuation education schools and classes
48980	Notification of parent/guardian
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
51230	American government and civics
51241-51246	Exemptions from requirements
51410-51412	Diplomas
51420-51427	High school equivalency certificates
51450-51455	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
60850-60859	High school exit exam
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
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Adopted: June 6, 2005

Revised: September 25, 2007