

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after completing the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the district. Course requirements for graduation include a prescribed sequence of required classes listed below along with electives for a total of 220 units. The prescribed course of study for students in grades 9 through 12 shall include (Education Code 51225.3)

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>REQUIRED CATEGORY</b>	<b>UNITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>CA STATE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS</b>
<b>English (40 Units)</b>	English (4 courses/years)	40	<b>40 Units</b> 4 years of college preparatory courses	<b>40 Units</b> 4 years of college preparatory courses
<b>Mathematics (30* Units)</b> Integrated Math 1 and Integrated Math 2 required with a minimum of 30* units completed 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grades (8 <sup>th</sup> grade - Integrated Math 1 Only)	Integrated Math 1 Integrated Math 2 Other Math	10 10 10	<b>30 Units</b> 3 years of college preparatory courses	<b>30 Units</b> 3 years of college preparatory courses (4 recommended)
<b>Science (25 Units)</b>	Health Life/Biological Science Physical Science	5 10 10	<b>20 Units</b> 2 years of a lab science (one biological and one physical)	<b>20 Units</b> 2 years of a lab science (3 recommended)
<b>Social Science (30 Units)</b>	World History / Cultures United States History Civics Economics	10 10 5 5	<b>20 Units</b> U.S. History/Social Sciences	<b>20 Units</b> World History and U.S. History or H.S. History and Civics
<b>P. E. (20 Units)</b> Required for all 9th grade students ***	Core P.E./Int. Core PE Other PE **	10 10	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>

continued on next page

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

<b>World Languages/Visual Performing Arts/CTE (10 units)</b>	World Languages, Visual and Performing Arts, or Career Technical Education	10	<b>20 Units of World Languages and 10 Units of Visual and Performing Arts</b>	<b>20 Units of World Languages (3 recommended) and 10 Units of Visual and Performing Arts</b>
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\* Beginning with the graduating class of 2028, 30 units of mathematics will be required

\*\* P.E. exemptions can only be used for the second year of P.E. if no P.E. course was taken that semester.

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.

District students shall complete graduation course requirements as specified in Education Code 51225.3. Unless exempted as provided in "Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements," district students shall also complete other course requirements adopted by the Board. Students who are exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and school activity related to graduation in which other students are eligible to participate.

**Course Requirements**

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

1. Four courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Two courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3); beginning with the graduating class of 2028, three courses in mathematics will be required

Education code 51224.5 (a) The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall include algebra as part of the mathematics area of study pursuant to subdivision (f) of Section 51220.

Education code 51224.5 (b) Commencing with the 2003-04 school year and each year thereafter, at least one course, or a combination of the two courses, in mathematics required to be completed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3 by pupils while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, prior to receiving a diploma of graduation from high school, shall meet or exceed the rigor of the content standards for Algebra I, as adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 60605.

Education code 51224.5 (c) A pupil who, before enrollment in grade 9, completes a course in Algebra I or Mathematics I, or mathematics courses of equal rigor, that is aligned to the content standards adopted by the state board, is exempt from subdivision (b), but is not exempt from the requirement that the pupil complete two courses in mathematics while enrolled in grades 9

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

to 12, inclusive, as specified in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 51225.3.

2. Successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category C" course based on the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) "A-G" admission requirements shall be counted toward the satisfaction of additional graduation requirements in mathematics. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)
3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Three courses in social studies, including United States (U.S.) history and geography; 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)
5. One course in visual or performing arts, world language, or career technical education (CTE). 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)

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)
8. Beginning with the 2029-30 school year, a one-semester course in ethnic studies (Education Code 51225.3)
9. One semester-long course in health

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.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)**Continuation High School Graduation Requirements**

Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from Sequoia High School only after completing the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the district. Course requirements for graduation include a prescribed sequence of required classes listed below along with electives for a total of 170 units. The prescribed course of study for students in grades 9 through 12 shall include (Education Code 51225.3)

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>REQUIRED CATEGORY</b>	<b>UNITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>CA STATE DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS</b>
<b>English (30 Units)</b>	English (3 courses/years)	30	<b>30 Units</b>
<b>Mathematics (20 Units)</b> Algebra 1/Integrated Math 1 or higher required with a minimum of 20 units completed in high school	Integrated Math 1 Other Math	10 10	<b>20 Units</b>
<b>Science (25 Units)</b>	Health Life/Biological Science Physical Science	5 10 10	<b>20 Units</b>
<b>Social Science (35 Units)</b>	World History United States History Civics Economics Ethnic Studies	10 10 5 5 5	<b>30 Units</b> U.S. History/Social Sciences
<b>P. E. (20 Units)</b> Required for all 9th grade students ***	Core P.E./Int. Core PE Other PE **	10 10	<b>20 Units**</b>
<b>World Languages/Visual Performing Arts/CTE (10 units)</b>	World Languages, Visual and Performing Arts, or Career Technical Education	10	<b>10 Units</b> of World Languages <b>OR</b> <b>10 Units</b> of Visual and Performing Arts

\*\*\* P.E. exemptions can only be used for the second year of P.E. if no P.E. course was taken that semester.  
revised:

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

1. Three courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Two 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

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Four courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; a one-semester course in economics; and a one-semester course in ethnic studies (Education Code 51225.3)
5. One course in visual or performing arts; world language, or career technical education (CTE). 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.

*(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)*  
*(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)*  
*(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)*

6. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3)
7. Beginning with the 2029-30 school year, a one-semester course in ethnic studies (Education Code 51225.3)
8. One semester-long course in health

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.

**Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements**

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the individualized education program (IEP) team for each student with disabilities shall determine whether the student is eligible for exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, and if so, shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. A student with disabilities shall be eligible for the exemption, if the student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student take the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 as described in Education Code 60640

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

2. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

Students of the Adult Education program shall be exempt from district-adopted requirements and instead shall be required to meet alternative high school diploma graduation requirements in alignment with the regional Adult Education Consortium

In addition, a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or newcomer student who is in the third or fourth year of high school 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 additional requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school.

Within 30 days of the transfer into a school by the foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or newcomer student, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student, and others as required by law, of the availability of the exemption from local graduation requirements and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

The Superintendent or designee shall not require or request the foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or newcomer student who is exempted from district-established graduation requirements and who completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, to graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school. (Education Code 51225.1)

If the foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or newcomer student was not properly notified of an exemption, declined the exemption, or was not previously exempted, the student or the student's educational rights holder may request the exemption and the Superintendent or designee shall exempt the student within 30 days of the request. Any such student who at one time qualified for the exemption may request the exemption even if the student is no longer eligible. (Education Code 51225.1)

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of student's graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from district-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

**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)

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

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 U.S. 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 high 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 U.S. while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school. Are former members of the military, a resident of California, and received an honorable discharge, or, are current members of the military, a resident of California, and a resident of California when entering the military

In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent or designee shall evaluate classes completed in any high school, community college, or state college, grant credit toward graduation for military service and training received while in the military, and if satisfied that the person has completed the equivalent of the requirements for graduation from high school, grant the person a diploma of graduation.

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

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)**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
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)

Within 30 days of the transfer into a school by a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student of the availability of the exemption from local graduation requirements under Education Code 51225.1 and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

In the annual notification sent to parents/guardians pursuant to Education Code 48980, the Superintendent or designee shall include the following: (Education Code 48980)

1. Information about district high school graduation requirements and how each requirement satisfies or does not satisfy the subject matter requirements for admission to the California State University and the University of California
2. A complete list of career technical education courses offered by the district that satisfy the subject matter requirements for admission to the California State University and the University of California, and which of the specific college admission requirements these courses satisfy

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**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.

<b>State</b>	<b>Description</b>
5 CCR 1600-1651	Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Ed Code 60900.2	Students with Disabilities Graduation Reporting
Ed. Code 220	Prohibition of discrimination
Ed. Code 47612	Average daily attendance 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



**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

Ed. Code 48430	Continuation education schools and classes
Ed. Code 48645.5	Former juvenile court school students; enrollment
Ed. Code 48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
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	Course credits
Ed. Code 51225.3	High school graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.31	Graduation exemption for students with disabilities
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 and terminally ill students
Ed. Code 51225.6	Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; districts that require health education for graduation
Ed. Code 51225.9	Courses of study, grades 7 to 12; career technical education
Ed. Code 51226.7	Model curriculum in ethnic studies
Ed. Code 51228	Course of study; offerings and timely opportunity
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	Credit and granting of diploma to veterans and members of the military service
Ed. Code 51450-51455	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
Ed. Code 51744-51749.6	Independent study
Ed. Code 56390-56392	Recognition for educational achievement; special education
Ed. Code 60640	California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
Ed. Code 66204	Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria
Ed. Code 67386	Student safety; affirmative consent standard
<b>Federal</b>	<b>Description</b>
20 USC 7011	Definition of newcomer student
34 CFR 300.1-300.818	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
<b>Management Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>
Court Decision	O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela) (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

Website	California Department of Education, High School
Website	University of California, List of Approved A-G Courses
Website	CSBA

**Cross References**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
0470	COVID-19 Mitigation Plan
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(2)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
4112.2	Certification
4112.2	Certification
5113.2	Work Permits
5113.2	Work Permits
5126	Awards For Achievement
5126	Awards For Achievement
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5145.6	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parent/Guardian Notifications
5147	Dropout Prevention
6000	Concepts And Roles
6011	Academic Standards
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction
6142.2	World Language Instruction
6142.2	World Language Instruction
6142.3	Civic Education
6142.4	Service Learning/Community Service Classes
6142.6	Visual And Performing Arts Education
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity
6142.7	Physical Education And Activity
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6142.8	Comprehensive Health Education
6142.91	Reading/Language Arts Instruction
6142.92	Mathematics Instruction
6142.93	Science Instruction
6142.94	History-Social Science Instruction
6143	Courses Of Study
6143	Courses Of Study
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.2	Athletic Competition
6145.6	International Exchange
6145.6	International Exchange
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.2-E(1)	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6146.4	Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities
6151	Class Size
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses
6155	Challenging Courses By Examination
6155	Challenging Courses By Examination
6158	Independent Study
6158	Independent Study
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education
6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6161.1-E(1)	Selection And Evaluation Of Instructional Materials
6162.5	Student Assessment
6172.1	Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes
6172.1	Concurrent Enrollment In College Classes
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E(1)	Education For Homeless Children
6173-E(2)	Education For Homeless Children
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.1	Education For Foster Youth
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.3	Education For Juvenile Court School Students
6175	Migrant Education Program
6175	Migrant Education Program

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes
6177	Summer Learning Programs
6178	Career Technical Education
6178	Career Technical Education
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.2	Regional Occupational Center/Program
6179	Supplemental Instruction
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6184	Continuation Education
6184	Continuation Education
6200	Adult Education
6200	Adult Education
9000	Role Of The Board

**Policy**

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**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Visalia, California