

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)

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

* 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.

revised: November 2001 by the High School Graduation Requirements Committee

approved: March 26, 2002

revised: September 23, 2003

revised: March 2004 by the High School Graduation Requirements Committee

revised: June 8, 2004

revised: February 22, 2005

revised: July 12, 2005

revised: May 11, 2010

revised: April 24, 2012

revised: June 21, 2016

revised: March 24, 2020

revised: June 8, 2021

revised: July 27, 2021

revised: September 13, 2022

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a high school diploma ~~so~~ 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.

(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 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)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

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

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

(cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

3. 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)

4. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

5. Three courses in social studies, including United States 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)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

6. 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)

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 and Activity)

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

(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)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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

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)

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

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

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)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

(cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)

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

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

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)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

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)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

7. One semester-long course in health

(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)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**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
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, 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 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 a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student, or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, 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 a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program 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)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

If a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program was not properly notified of an exemption, declined the exemption, or was not previously exempted, the student or the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student 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.

(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: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Persons who 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.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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. Former students who were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who 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. 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 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 or passed away during the year in which they were expected to graduate.

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)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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

*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**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**4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures**COURT DECISIONS**O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452**Management Resources: (see next page)*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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>

Policy

adopted: March 26, 2002

revised: September 23, 2003

revised: June 8, 2004

revised: July 12, 2005

revised: May 11, 2010

revised: April 24, 2012

revised: May 13, 2014

revised: June 21, 2016

revised: November 7, 2017

revised: April 10, 2018

revised: June 26, 2018

revised: June 25, 2019

revised: October 29, 2019

revised: January 14, 2020

revised: April 14, 2020

revised: April 28, 2020

revised: December 8, 2020

revised: March 9, 2021

revised: June 8, 2021

revised: July 27, 2021

revised: April 5, 2022

revised: September 13, 2022

revised: March 28, 2023

revised: November 14, 2023

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California