

## **Instruction**

### **ALTERNATIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION**

In order to meet individual student needs and encourage all students to complete their high school education, the Governing Board desires to provide flexibility in the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

*(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*  
*(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)*  
*(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)*  
*(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)*

The Board shall actively involve parents/guardians, administrators, teachers, and students in helping the district develop alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study required for graduation. (Education Code 51225.3)

As an alternative to completing the course requirements for high school graduation, students may fulfill one or more of the course requirements through the following:

1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6155 - Challenging Courses by Examinations)*

2. Supervised work experience or other outside school experience in accordance with Education Code 51760.3 and 5 CCR 1635 (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6178.1 - Work Experience Education)*

3. Career technical education classes offered in high schools (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6178 - Vocational Education)*

4. Courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs (Education Code 51225.3)

5. Interdisciplinary study (Education Code 51225.3)

6. Independent study (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)*

7. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution (Education Code 48800, 51225.3)

*(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)*

8. Private instruction in accordance with 5 CCR 1631

9. Military service and training in accordance with 5 CCR 1634 (Education Code 51440)

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10. Correspondence instruction from a California university or college accredited for teacher training in accordance with 5 CCR 1633 (Education Code 51740-51741)
11. To satisfy the district's driver education and training requirement, a program approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles which offers driver education and behind-the-wheel instruction through a driving school or licensed independent driving instructor in accordance with Vehicle Code 12814.6

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

12. For credit toward the district's foreign language requirement, foreign language studies successfully completed in a private school in accordance with 5 CCR 1632 (Education Code 51243)

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether a student has satisfactorily met course requirements through any of the above alternative means.

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

48645.5 Course credit, juvenile court schools

48800-48802 Attendance at community college; advanced education

51220 Areas of study; grades 7-12

51225.3 Requirements for graduation

51241-51246 Exemptions from requirements

51440 Veterans' education, evaluation and credit toward high school graduation

51740-51741 Authority to provide instruction by correspondence

51760-51769.5 Work experience education

VEHICLE CODE

12814.6 Teen driver's act

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1600-1635 Alternative credit

*Management Resources:*WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy

adopted: May 21, 2002

Revised: May 25, 2004

Revised: January 9, 2007

Reviewed: April 5, 2022

**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Visalia, California

**Instruction****ALTERNATIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION**

Alternative means specified by the district for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to students, parents/guardians, and the public. (Education Code 51225.3)

**Definitions**

A semester period is one period of 40 to 60 minutes of instructional time per week throughout one semester of at least 17 weeks, or a minimum of 12 clock hours of instructional time provided during the academic year or in summer school. While the content to be covered is planned within these time frames, a student may be granted one semester period of credit even though the student spends less than the aforementioned amount of time in completing the necessary work. (5 CCR 1600)

**Supervised Work Experience Education**

A student shall be granted up to 40 semester periods (units) of credit for work experience education of one or more of the following types: (Education Code 51760.3; 5 CCR 1635)

1. For exploratory work experience education, the student may earn 10 semester periods (units) for each semester, with a maximum of 20 semester periods (units) earned in two semesters.
2. For general work experience education, the student may earn 10 semester periods (units) for each semester, with a maximum of 40 semester periods (units).
3. For vocational work experience education, the student may earn 10 semester periods (units) for each semester, with a maximum of 40 semester periods (units).

To receive credit, the student must satisfy eligibility requirements and receive at least the minimum period of instruction or counseling pursuant to Education Code 51760.3.

*(cf. 6178.1 - Work Experience Education)*

**College Courses**

To receive high school credit for coursework completed at a community college or four-year college, the student or parent/guardian shall submit a written request and a transcript showing successful completion of the course. The course shall be one that satisfies college entrance requirements, applies toward college-level general education requirements, or is part of a vocational or career technical education course leading to a degree or certificate.

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For students attending community college as special part-time students, credit shall be at a level jointly determined by the Governing Board and the community college governing board.  
(Education Code 48800)

*(cf. 6172 - Gifted and Talented Student Program)*

Students who take college level coursework will be awarded high school credit based on the college level units awarded. Every 1 unit college course = 3.3 high school credits with a cap of 10 high school credits (equivalent to a yearlong high school course). The credits will be rounded down or up.

Example:      1 unit college course = 3 high school credits  
                   2 unit college course = 7 high school credits  
                   3 or more unit college course = 10 high school credits

**Private Instruction**

A student who is regularly enrolled and in attendance at a high school shall receive credit toward high school graduation for private instruction under the following conditions: (5 CCR 1631)

1. The instruction entails fields and subjects included in the high school's courses of study and curricula.
2. The student demonstrates his/her capabilities at the end of the period of private instruction by passing the course end examinations given under the school's supervision, thereby showing that he/she has made progress in learning satisfactory to the school.

**Correspondence Instruction Courses**

The district shall grant credit for correspondence instruction under the following conditions: (Education Code 51740; 5 CCR 1633)

1. The correspondence instruction is provided by the University of California, or other university or college in California accredited for teacher training, in subjects included within or related to the student's course of study.
2. The student is, for good reason, unable to take the course of study offered in the school.
3. The Superintendent or designee determines the number of semester periods (units) to be credited for successful completion of a particular correspondence course.

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4. No more than 40 semester periods (units) of correspondence/technology-based instruction are credited to a traditional high school student towards graduation.
5. The number of semester units accepted for graduation for correspondence/technology-based courses by a student enrolled in an alternative education program will be based upon student need and determined by the principal/designee.
6. Expenses related to correspondence/technology-based courses will not be absorbed by the district/site with the exception of specific on-line programs contracted by the district.

**Online Instruction/Courses**

The district shall grant credit for high school coursework completed online through providers who issue transcripts for completed coursework under the following conditions:

1. The student is, for good reason, unable to take the course of study offered in the school and the student receives prior approval by the principal or designee.
2. The online course publisher is regionally accredited to offer high school coursework and the course is on the UC/CSU A-G approved list. NCAA-approval is not required. Students and parents/guardians are responsible to ensure online coursework is NCAA approved if applicable.
3. No more than 40 total semester credits of online high school courses may be credited to a student towards meeting graduation requirements. This limit does not apply to online coursework taught by a credentialed district instructor who issues final grades as part of the school educational program.
4. Expenses related to online courses will not be absorbed by the district/site with the exception of specific online programs contracted by the district.

**Foreign Language Instruction**

The district shall grant credit for foreign language studies successfully completed in a private school and shall apply the credit toward meeting any foreign language requirement prescribed for grades 9-12, provided that all of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 51243-51245; 5 CCR 1632)

1. The courses are in languages designated in Education Code 51244.
2. The student is regularly enrolled or applying to the district in grades 9-12.
3. The student or parent/guardian applies in writing for the credit, specifies the private school attended and the amount and level of credit requested, and submits a transcript or other documents from the private school showing that the student successfully completed the course.

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4. The amount of credit sought equals at least one semester's work.
5. The principal or designee determines that the student's achievement is equivalent to that expected of a student of comparable ability taking the same or similar instruction in district schools. This determination shall be based upon the private school's report of a test developed by the private school in cooperation with the district or, if the private school is located outside the district, the principal or designee may use a test given by a public school or other evidence which he/she deems appropriate.

**Alternative Education**

As a means to align to the Alternative School Accountability Model (ASAM), credits at the continuation high school will be earned at a rate of 10-12 hours of instruction per single unit of credit (Ed Code 48430, 51225). Alternative means for pupils to accrue credits toward graduation may include: independent study, CHSPE, proficiency exams, work experience, sports, SCICON, community service, and other means of practical demonstration of skills and competencies as approved by the site principal.

Regulation  
approved: April 25, 2002  
revised: April 26, 2004  
revised: January 24, 2005  
revised: November 6, 2006  
revised: October 19, 2009  
revised: May 10, 2018  
revised: May 20, 2019  
Reviewed: February 28, 2022

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