

Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 06/27/1995 | **Last Revised Date:** 05/21/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/21/2024

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

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

Graduation Requirements

Graduation from High School is based on the successful completion of 220 semester hours of credits in grades 9-12, and meeting the minimum course requirements.

Graduation from Orangewood High School (Continuation) is based on the successful completion of 190 semester hours of credit, and meeting the minimum course requirements.

Graduation from the Redlands Adult School is based on the successful completion of 180 semester hours of credit, and meeting the minimum course requirements.

Minimum Graduation Requirements

It is understood that the course and credit requirements of this policy represent only minimum graduation requirements. The determination of the appropriate number and variety of course credit for each individual student is the shared responsibility of the student, the parents and the professional staff.

For purposes of interpretation of this policy, a "course having a duration of one year" means any course(s), adopted by the Governing Board and approved as meeting graduation requirements, which, when successfully completed, will yield a total of 10 semester hours of 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 - 40 credits in grades 9-12 (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Two courses in Mathematics - 20 credits in grades 9-12 (Education Code 51225.3)

Students shall complete at least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses, that meets the state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Students may complete such coursework prior to grade 9 provided that they also complete two Mathematics courses in grades 9-12 (Education Code 51224.5).

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, 20 credits in grades 9-12, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)

4. Three courses in Social Studies, 30 credits in grades 9-12 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), 10 credits in grades 9-12. 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)

6. Two courses in Physical Education, - 20 credits in grades 9-12 unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code. (Education Code 51225.3)

Education Code 51225.36 requires that the district include instruction in sexual harassment and violence, including, but not limited to information on the affirmation consent standard pursuant to Education Code 67389. See BP 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction.

Notation: Under provision of California Education Code 51240. Excuse from. Health Instruction and Family Life and Sex Education due to religious beliefs. Whenever any part of the instruction in Health, Family life Education, and Sex Education conflicts with the religious belief of the parent or guardian of any pupil, the pupil, on written request of the parent/guardian, shall be excused from the part of the instruction which conflicts with such religious training and beliefs. As used in this section, "Religious Training and Beliefs" includes personal moral convictions.

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

7. Beginning with the 2029-2030 school year, a one-semester course in ethnic studies or completion of an embedded ethnic studies English or History course (Education Code 51225.3)

Electives (sufficient credits to meet minimum 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.

(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)

Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

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 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)

Additionally, upon an individual determination by the student's IEP team, any student with a disability shall be eligible for an exemption from any coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to that exceed the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, if when the student's individualized education program (IEP) team provides for both of the following requirements determines that such an exemption is necessary to support the student's successful completion of high school and is consistent with the student's postsecondary goals. The IEP team shall: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student is eligible to take the alternate assessment as described in Education Code 60640 Verify that the student will complete all coursework required by Education Code 51225.3

2. Consider the impact of not fulfilling locally required coursework on the pupil's ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education

23. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3 Document each waived or substituted district requirement, the justification for the exemption, and the anticipated date of diploma completion in the IEP

4. Provide written notice of the exemption decision to the parent/guardian

5. Review the exemption annually and adjust the student's course of study as needed

Students whose IEPs identify them as eligible for the California Alternate Assessment shall continue to be exempted in accordance with Education Code 51225.31.

The district's responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education shall not terminate when a student with a disability who is exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements participates in graduation activities unless the IEP team, which includes the parent/guardian and student, has determined that the student has completed the high school experience. (Education Code 51225.31)

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of students 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. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

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 former students who:

1. Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or are honorably discharged veteran 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 satisfies these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin.

2. Are 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 school district

College Course Credit

A student, with counselor approval, may take a required class through an accredited college program provided at their assigned high school through the district dual enrollment program or on the college campus. These credits may earn appropriately assigned graduation credit.

Credit by Examination

Any student who requests credit for a course by examination must indicate this to the counselor. If, in the judgment of the counselor, the request has merit, the counselor will refer the request to a screening committee. The screening committee shall consist of the principal/designee, the student's counselor/designee, and the department chairperson/designee of the subject area in question.

The screening committee shall have the responsibility to determine if the request is in the best interest of the student. A decision to administer the test must be unanimous.

The department chairperson/designee shall be responsible for preparing and administering the test. Upon successful completion of the test, the student will receive credit for the course(s) as approved by the department chairperson and the screening committee.

Grade Point Average

The grade point average for high school students shall be computed in the following manner:

All high school classes taken within the district shall be counted, except Physical Education and Work Experience Education. Transfer classes whose content is religious in nature will not be counted toward the GPA. Certain R.O.P. classes designated in advance by the Governing Board of Education shall be counted toward the GPA and/or toward meeting graduation requirements.

Credit for Classes Taken Off-Campus*

A student, with counselor approval, may take a required class at a site other than where the student is enrolled if the class is not currently being offered where the student is enrolled and/or if one semester of the class has been failed.

Students taking a required course "off-campus" must submit the course description to both the principal and the appropriate department for approval prior to taking the class. The course description must be submitted at least one month prior to the beginning of the requested class, or, in the case of summer school, prior to June 1.

Elective classes do not require prior approval and will receive full credit as given by the sponsoring accredited institution.

"Off-campus" shall mean any class not under the jurisdiction of the local site administrator.

Credit Limitations

A student may earn no more than 35 credits per semester, and/or a maximum of 20 credits may be earned in any summer session between June and September, unless prior approval to earn a greater number of credits has been obtained through the student appeal process at each school site.

No more than 10 credits may be earned as a teacher's aide and/or Library Science aide in grades 11-12.

No more than 40 credits may be earned in Work Experience Education.

No more than 40 credits may be earned in R.O.P.

No more than 20 credits may be earned from Child Development or cross-age teaching.

No more than 40 credits in P.E. may be earned in grades 9-12.

No more than 40 credits may be earned from "Credit by Examination" in grades 9-12 with the exception of GED (General Education Development) Test in Adult School.

Participation in Graduation Exercises

A student must complete all coursework and meet all graduation requirements prior to the date of graduation in order to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Transfer of Credits by Non-Graduates

Students may transfer a maximum of 40 credits earned from an accredited school back to a Redlands high school in order to receive a diploma if the student does not graduate with the class. No more than 40 of the required 220 credits may be earned at an adult school. Proof of graduation will be given upon request at the time of verification of completion of all work required for graduation.

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)

(cf. 6177 - Summer School)

(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to a student who is terminally ill (Education Code 51225.5)

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district. (Education Code 51225.5)
