

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

High School Graduation Requirements

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

Students shall not be required to have resided within the district for any minimum length of time as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Code 51411)

The Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a high school diploma to enable them to take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

To obtain a high school diploma from a comprehensive high school, students shall successfully complete a minimum of 230 semester credits. To obtain a high school diploma from the alternative school of choice, students shall complete a minimum of 200 credits. The following courses must be taken in grades 9 through 12 (Education Code 51225.3)

1. Four years of English (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Three years of mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of 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 not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12.

3. Three years of science, including life and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Three years of 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
5. One year of visual or performing arts
6. One year of foreign language or American Sign Language (Education Code 51225.3)
7. Two years of physical education, unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code 51241 (Education Code 51225.3)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

8. One semester of Health Education including state requirements of instruction in drugs, narcotics, alcohol, safety, first aid, sexual harassment, violence and civil defense (Education Code 51225.36)
9. One semester of Information, Communication, and Technology/Career Literacy
10. Completion of a Junior Reflective Essay and Senior Culminating Project on personal career and life goals that exhibits the student's creative ability, critical thinking and communication skills and demonstrates a clear understanding of the essential activities needed to achieve the career and life goals.
11. Forty hours of Community Service

To obtain a high school diploma from the continuation high school, students shall successfully complete a minimum of 170 semester credits. The following courses must be taken in grades 9 through 12. (Education Code 51225.3)

1. Four years of English (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Two years of mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of 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 not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12.

3. Two years of science, including life and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Three years of 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
5. One year of visual or performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education (Education Code 51225.3)
6. Two years of physical education, unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code 51241 (Education Code 51225.3)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

7. One semester of Health Education including state requirements of instruction in drugs, narcotics, alcohol, safety, first aid, sexual harassment, violence and civil defense (Education Code 51225.36)
8. One semester of Information, Communication, and Technology/Career Literacy
9. Completion of a Junior Reflective Essay and Senior Culminating Project on personal career and life goals that exhibits the student's creative ability, critical thinking and communication skills and demonstrates a clear understanding of the essential activities needed to achieve the career and life goals.
10. Forty hours of Community Service

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 and Waivers

The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth, homeless students, and children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.1 and 49701.

Retroactive Diplomas

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 United States or through online or virtual courses.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

2. Are veterans who entered the military service of the United State while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school.

Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant an honorary 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)

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.

State References	Description
5 CCR 1600-1651	Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
5 CCR 4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
Ed. Code 47612	Enrollment 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
Ed. Code 48430	Continuation education schools and classes
Ed. Code 48645.5	Former juvenile court school students, enrollment
Ed. Code 48980	Required notification at beginning of term
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
Ed. Code 51225.1	Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12
Ed. Code 51225.2	Exemption from district graduation requirements
Ed. Code 51225.3	Former juvenile court school student defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course
Ed. Code 51225.35	High school graduation
Ed. Code 51225.36	Mathematics course requirements; computer science
Ed. Code 51225.5	Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation
Ed. Code 51225.6	Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students
Ed. Code 51228	Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation
Ed. Code 51230	Graduation requirements
	Credit for community emergency response training

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

State References	Description
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	Retroactive high school diplomas
Ed. Code 51450-51455	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
Ed. Code 51745	Independent study
Ed. Code 56390-56392	Recognition for educational achievement, special education
Ed. Code 66204	Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria
Ed. Code 67386	Student safety; affirmative consent standard
Management Resources Reference	Description
Court Decision	O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452
Website	University of California A-G Course List (ucop.edu)
Website	California Department of Education High School - Grade Spans (CA Dept of Education)
Website	California School Boards Association (csba.org)
Cross Reference	Description
0460	Local Control And Accountability Plan
1312.3	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(1)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
1312.3-E(2)	Uniform Complaint Procedures
4112.2	Certification
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
5145.6	Parental Notifications
5145.6-E(1)	Parental Notifications
5147	Dropout Prevention
6000	Concepts And Roles
6011	Academic Standards
6141	Curriculum Development And Evaluation
6142.1	Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention 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
6142.8	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
6145	Extracurricular And Cocurricular Activities
6145.2	Athletic Competition

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

Cross Reference	Description
6145.6	International Exchange
6146.11	Alternative Credits Toward Graduation
6146.2	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.2-E(1)	Certificate Of Proficiency/High School Equivalency
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6146.4	Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities
6151	Class Size
6152.1	Placement In Mathematics Courses
6155	Challenging Courses By Examination
6158	Independent Study
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education
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
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
6173.2	Education Of Children Of Military Families
6173.3	Education For Juvenile Court School Students
6175	Migrant Education Program
6176	Weekend/Saturday Classes
6177	Summer Learning Programs
6178	Career Technical Education
6178.1	Work-Based Learning
6178.2	Regional Occupational Center/Program
6179	Supplemental Instruction
6181	Alternative Schools/Programs Of Choice
6184	Continuation Education
6200	Adult Education
9000	Role Of The Board

Policy
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MURRIETA VALLEY USD
 Murrieta, California