

Board Policy

High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

Instruction

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a diploma of high school graduation to enable them to take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 547 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(6246.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

Course Requirements

To obtain a diploma of graduation from high school, students shall complete at least the following courses in grade 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

1. ENGLISH: Successful completion of 4 full year courses (40 credits total)
 - a. English 9
 - b. English 10
 - c. English 11
 - d. English 12

English 9, 10, 11 should be successfully completed before enrolling in the next English level or concurrent with the next level. Advanced Placement Language and Composition may be taken to fulfill the English 11 requirement. Advanced Placement Literature and Composition may be taken to fulfill the English 12 requirement.

English Learner students entering high school at the Beginning or Early Intermediate language proficiency levels and requiring ELD courses prior to taking the required English courses may fulfill one year of required English courses (specifically, English 9) with successful completion of one two-period ELD course. English Learner students requiring a second or third year of ELD courses shall take those courses concurrently with other required English courses (English 10, English 11, or English 12).

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading Language Arts Instruction)

2. MATHEMATICS: Successful completion of two full year courses (20 credits total)
 - a. Algebra I (2 semesters)
 - b. A second math course (2 semesters)

At least on mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses required for completion in grades 9-12, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I. (Education Code 51224.5)

Completion of algebra coursework prior to grade 9, that meets or exceeds state academic standards shall satisfy the algebra coursework requirement but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

3. SCIENCE - Successful completion of two full year courses including biological and physical sciences (20 credits total), (Education Code 51224.3)
 - a. A Physical Science course
 - b. A Biological Science course

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

4. SOCIAL SCIENCE: Successful completion of three years of social science (30 credits total) (Education Code 51225.3)
 - a. World History (10th grade)
 - b. United States History (11th grade)
 - c. American Government (1 semester, 12th grade)
 - d. Economics (1 semester, 12th grade)

Advanced Placement World History may be taken to fulfill the World History requirement. Advanced Placement United States History may be taken to fulfill the United States History requirement. Advanced Placement Government may be taken to fulfill the American Government requirement, and Advanced Placement Economics may be taken to fulfill the Economics requirement.

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

5. FINE ARTS or VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: Successful completion of a one year course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, American Sign Language, or vocational education (10 credits total) (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

6. PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Successful completion two courses (20 credits total) 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)

7. (currently "blank") FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Successful completion of four semesters (5 credits per semester / 20 credits total) in a Foreign Language.

8. ELECTIVES: Successful completion of 60 credits in elective courses (6 elective courses / 5 credits per semester).

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 Proficiency)

Alternative (Continuation) High School

Aurora High School is the alternative (continuation) high school serving students in the Calexico Unified School District. Aurora High School students shall complete 220 credits in order to receive a high school diploma including successful completion of all prescribed coursework as described in the course requirements section above. In addition to successfully completing the required coursework listed above, Aurora High School students shall also successfully pass the California High School Exit Exam in English Language Arts and Mathematics. For students earning a high school diploma from Aurora High School, the minimum 2.00 grade point average requirement shall be calculated based on grades of courses completed at Aurora High School only. Students who return to the comprehensive high school for graduation purposes will be required to meet the 2.00 cumulative grade point average required based on grades earned in all grade 9 - 12 coursework.

Adult Education

Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school through the Robert Morales Adult Education Center only after completing the prescribed course of study, meeting the following standards of proficiency established by the district:

1. Obtain (at minimum) 180 credits, with 10 credits (minimum) earned at Robert Morales Adult Education Center
2. Obtain (at minimum) a 2.00 Grade Point Average for Graduation while attending Robert Morales Education Center
3. Pass both sections of the California High School Exit Exam (in English Language Arts and Mathematics)

In addition to successfully completing the required coursework listed in the following section below, Adult Education students must be at least 18 years of age, successfully pass the California High School Exit Exam in English Language Arts and Mathematics, earn a minimum 2.00 grade point average for courses taken at Robert Morales Adult Education Center, and have earned a minimum of 10 credits at Robert Morales Adult Education Center.

Course Requirements for High School Diploma (Robert Morales Adult Education)

1. ENGLISH: Successful completion of eight semesters (5 credits per semester / 40 credits total)
 - a. English 9 (2 semesters)
 - b. English 10 (2 semesters)
 - c. English 11 (2 semesters)
 - d. English 12 (2 semesters)
2. MATHEMATICS: Successful completion of four semesters (5 credits per semester/20 credits total)
 - a. Algebra I (2 semesters)
 - b. A second math course (2 semesters)
3. SCIENCE: Successful completion of four semesters including biological and physical sciences (5 credits per semester / 20 credits total), (Education Code 51224.3)
 - a. A Physical Science course (2 semesters)
 - b. A Biological Science course (2 semesters)
4. SOCIAL SCIENCE - Successful completion of six semesters (5 credits per semester / 30 credits total) (Education Code 51225.3)
 - a. World History (2 semesters)

- b. United States History (2 semesters)
 - c. American Government (1 semester)
 - d. Economics (1 semester)
5. FOREIGN LANGUAGE, FINE ARTS or VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: Successful completion of one course (2 semesters) in visual or performing arts, foreign language, American Sign Language, or vocational education (5 credits per semester / 10 credits total) (Education Code 51225.3)
6. PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Successful completion of four semesters (5 credits per semester / 20 credits total) in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3)
7. ELECTIVES: Successful completion of 50 credits in elective courses (5 credits per semester / 10 elective courses).

High School Exit Examination

Each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Code 60851, 60859)

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student in grade 7-12 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in Board policy, toward passing the exit exam. (Education Code 37252, 68051)

(cf. 5148.2 - Before / After School Programs)
(cf. 6176 - Weekend / Saturday Classes)
(cf. 6177 - Summer School)
(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Students who have not passed one or both parts of the exit exam by the end of grade 12 shall have the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade 12 or until they have passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first. (Education Code 37254)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance / Counseling Services)

In addition to intensive remedial instruction, the district shall offer students who have passed all state and local graduation requirements except for passage of one or both parts of the exit exam the following options beyond their regular senior year until they pass the exam:

(currently blank)

Students shall have the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade 12 or until they have passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first. (Education Code 37254)

(cf. 0420.4 - Charter Schools)

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students who have fulfilled all local and state graduation requirements except for the passage of the exit exam and the resources that have been offered to such students.

As indicated in the Instruction section above, the district shall make exception in accordance with law for students with exceptional needs and an IEP who are unable to meet the standards of proficiency.

Certificates of Completion

Students who have passed all the district's course requirements by the end of their senior year but are unable to pass the high school exit exam shall receive a certificate of completion. Students receiving certificates of completion may not participate in the graduation ceremony.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students receiving a certificate of completion and the resources that have been offered to such students.

Retroactive Diplomas

The district may retroactively grant a high school diploma to a former student who was interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who is an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that he/she was enrolled in a district school immediately preceding the internment or military services and he/she did not receive a diploma because his/her education was interrupted due to the internment or military service. (Education Code 51430)

In addition, the Board may retroactively grant a diploma to a deceased former student who satisfies the above conditions. The diploma shall be received by the deceased student's next of kin. (Education Code 51430)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35186 Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures
- 37252 Supplemental instructional programs
- 37254 Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit exam by end of grade 12
- 37254.1 Required student participation in supplemental instruction
- 47612 Enrollment in charter school
- 48200 Compulsory attendance
- 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
- 51225.3 Requirements for graduation
- 51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students
- 51228 Graduation requirements
- 51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
- 51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents
- 51410-51412 Diplomas
- 51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates
- 51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
- 51745 Independent study restrictions
- 52378 Supplemental school counseling program
- 56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education
- 60850-60859 High school exit examination
- 66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation

COURT DECISIONS

O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gc/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

Policy CALEXICO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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