

Instruction

High School Graduation Requirements

The Board of Education desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

Course Requirements

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

1. Four courses in English
2. Two courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

At least one 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 or Mathematics 1. Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework or Mathematics I requirement that meets or exceeds state academic content standards shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

Students may be awarded up to one mathematics course credit for successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a “category c” course based on the “a-g” course requirements for college admission. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, 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, foreign language, ~~or~~ American Sign Language or career technical education (CTE). (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.

6. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code 51241 (Education Code 51225.3)

BP 6146.1(b)

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.

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

Until July 31, 2018, any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 school year or a subsequent school year and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma.

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 service and he/she did not receive a diploma because his/her education was interrupted due to the internment or military service. A deceased former student who satisfies these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by his/her next of kin.

In addition, the District may grant a diploma to a veteran who entered the military service of the United States while he/she was a District student in grade 12 and who had completed the first half of the work required for grade 12.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 48200 Compulsory attendance
- 48412 Certificate of proficiency
- 48430 Continuation education schools and classes
- 48645.5 Acceptance of coursework
- 48980 Notification of parent/guardian
- 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 Pupil 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; foreign exchange students

BP 6146.1(c)

- 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
 - 56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education
 - 60851.5 Suspension of high school exit examination
 - 60151.6 Retroactive diploma; completion of all graduation requirements except high school exit examination
 - 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 pupils from grade 12 and credit toward graduation

Adopted: (7-88 12-92 7-96 3-08) 2-17

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Orange, California