

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

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.

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 (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Three courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

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

3. 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 5122.3, 51225.35)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

4. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

5. Three courses in social studies, 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)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)

6. One course in visual or performing arts, or world language, or Career Technical Education (CTE). 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 Education. (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)

(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

7. Two courses 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 and Activity)

(cf. 6142.1 - Family Life/Sexual Education Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)

(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)

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.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

Effective with the Graduating Class of 2019 and each class thereafter.

All students receiving a high school diploma from the District shall:

1. Achieve a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0., and
2. Complete the course requirements as follows:

Subject	Units per Subject	Total Units per Subject
English/Reading		40 units
Mathematics:		30 units
Algebra I/Integrated Math I (if taken at the high school level)	10 units	
Other higher level math	20 units	
Physical Education		20 units
Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA)/World Language		20 units*
*One VAPA course may be replaced with Career Technical Education		
Science:		20 units
Biological Science/Biology and The Living Earth	10 units	
Earth/Physical Science/Other Higher Level Science	10 units	
Social Science:		30 units
World History, Culture and Geography European History Advanced Placement-Or Human Geography Advanced Placement	10 units	
U.S. History and Geography	10 units	
Principles of American Democracy	5 units	
Economics or Consumer Economics	5 units	
Health Education		5 units
Electives		60 units
Total Units of Credit		225 units

Students who complete Algebra 1/Integrated Math I, with a grade of "C" or better in junior high school, shall be required to successfully complete only two years of mathematics (20 units) at the high school level in order to qualify for a diploma. Students who take Algebra I/Integrated Math I in junior high school will not receive high school graduation credit and shall be required to complete 225 total units of credit in grades 9-12.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a course in career technical education shall be aligned to the career technical model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.

(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)
(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)
(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

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.

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)
(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)
(cf. 6173.2 - Education for Children of Military Families)

Exemptions From District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

A foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or 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 a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student, or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, 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)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

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, a student with disabilities shall be eligible for an exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, if the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student is eligible to take the alternate assessment as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

Retroactive Diplomas

Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003/2004 through 2014/2015 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: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or are honorably discharged veterans 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 satisfy these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin. (Education Code 51430)

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

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

3. Were in their senior year of high school during the 2019/2020 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019/2020 school year as of March 1, 2020, and were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

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)

Appeal Process

In order to qualify for a regular high school diploma from the District, each student shall meet all requirements as set forth by the California State Board of Education and the Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education. When awarding a diploma, the Board certifies that the student has met all state and local requirements. Seniors who are deemed ineligible to graduate on the basis of their failure to maintain a 2.0 grade point average or to satisfactorily complete the three (3) year mathematics requirement and their parents/guardians shall be afforded due process to appeal based on special circumstances. The procedures for appeal are as follows:

1. Formal appeals shall be presented to the school principal in writing and shall set forth a statement of the facts and the specific remedy sought.
2. If the appeal is not resolved at the school site level, the parties may appeal to the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall hold a hearing with the senior and parents/guardians as soon as such meeting can be convened, but in no case later than five (5) business days following receipt of the written appeal. The Superintendent shall notify the senior and parents/guardians of his/her decision whether to deny or authorize the senior's graduation as soon as such decision is firm, but in no case later than 24 hours after the hearing. The Superintendent may expeditiously provide initial notification in person or via phone. Written notification shall be provided.

3. If the decision is to deny the senior's graduation, the notification shall inform the senior and parents/guardians that they may appeal to the Board of Education.

If the senior and/or parents/guardians decide to appeal to the Board of Education, they shall inform the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall notify Governing Board members.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

4. The Board of Education appeals panel, which shall consist of two Board members and the Superintendent, will hear the appeal as soon as possible, but in no case later than 48 hours from notification by the Superintendent. The decision of that panel is final.
5. If the student and/or parents/guardians fail to meet any of the guidelines set forth above, the student waives his/her right to further appeal.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

220 Prohibition of discrimination
47612 Enrollment in charter school
48200 Compulsory attendance
48204.4 Parents/guardians departing California against their will
48412 Certificate of proficiency
48430 Continuation education schools and classes
48645.5 Former juvenile court school students, enrollment
48980 Parent/Guardian notifications
49701 Provisions of the interstate compact on educational opportunities for military children
51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life
51224.5 Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12
51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements
51225.2 Course credits
51225.3 High school graduation
51225.31 Graduation exemption for students with disabilities
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
51225.6 Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation
51225.9 Courses of study, grades 7 to 12; career technical education
51228 Graduation requirements
51230 Credit for community emergency response training
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents
51410-51413 Diplomas
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates
51430 Retroactive high school diplomas
51440 Retroactive high school diplomas
51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
51744-51749.6 Independent study
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education
60640 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
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 students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
4600-4670 Uniform complaint procedures

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

COURT DECISIONS

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

Management Resources:

WEBSITES

California School Boards Association: www.csba.org

California Department of Education, High School: www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs

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

www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements

Chino Valley Unified School District

Policy adopted: August 21, 1997

Revised: August 10, 2000

Revised: February 1, 2001

Revised: June 5, 2003

Revised: June 2, 2005

Revised: February 2, 2006

Revised: January 24, 2008

Revised: May 1, 2008

Revised: July 16, 2009

Revised: May 6, 2010

Revised: February 16, 2012

Revised: March 17, 2016

Revised: September 6, 2018

Revised: October 20, 2022

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