

**West Contra Costa USD**  
**Board Policy**  
**High School Graduation Requirements**

BP 6146.1  
**Instruction**

The Governing Board 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**

Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after completing the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the district and the state. Students must have 225 credits in order to graduate.

The prescribed course of study for students in grades 9 through 12 shall include (Education Code 51225.3):

Effective July 1, 2007 2014:

**Subject Area Required Credits**

English Language Arts      40 credits

Mathematics    30 credits  
    Including 10 credits of Algebra I or above

Science      20 credits

Biological Science    (10)

Physical Science      (10)

Social Science 40 credits beginning with the class of 2018 (30 if student opts out of Cultural Geography)

Cultural Geography    (10)

World History (10)

U.S. History    (10)

Government    (5)

Economics (5)

Physical Education 20 credits

Fine Arts 10 credits

World Language 10 credits

Electives 55 credits

Beginning with the class of 2018 10 credits of an A-G approved course if student opts out of Cultural Geography

~~Other Requirements—CAHSEE~~

Service Learning

TOTAL 225 credits

Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the Governing Board shall provide alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with the 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.

### Certificate of Completion

A student with a disability who (1) has satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Governing Board and identified in his/her individualized education program ("IEP"); (2) has met his/her IEP goals and objectives during high school as determined by his/her IEP team; or (3) has satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her IEP, and has met the objectives of the statement of transition services contained in his/her individualized transition plan in his/her IEP, shall be issued a Certificate of Completion if they are unable to meet district graduation requirements with accommodations. Certificates of Completion require the signature of the Director of Special Services and the Superintendent. No student who is able to earn a high school diploma prior to his/her twenty-second birthday may also earn a Certificate of Completion.

### Diploma Requirements

Students transferring within the district must complete the last semester in the school in order to obtain a diploma from that school.

Foreign exchange students may receive honorary diplomas pursuant to Education Code 51225.5.

#### California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)

~~Each student completing grade 12 shall have met the CAHSEE requirements in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Code 60851)~~

~~Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress" as defined in Board policy, toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code 37252, 60851)~~

~~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)~~

#### 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. (Education Code 60851.6)

#### Legal Reference:

##### EDUCATION CODE

~~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

51225.1 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  
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  
60851.6 Retroactive diploma; completion of all graduation requirements except high school exit examination

~~60850 60859 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 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/gs/hs>

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

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

#### Policy WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: June 6, 2007 Richmond, California

revised: June 18, 2008

revised: May 14, 2014

revised: