

The Board of Trustees desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma so that they can take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment. The district's graduation requirements are designed to ensure minimal proficiency on curriculum standards, provide a common base of general education, encourage academic excellence and participation in enrichment studies, and comply with California law.

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.

A single diploma will be granted by the Anaheim Union High School District. Scholastic recognition will be designated by an embossed seal placed on the diploma for superior work (honors – 3.00 to 3.49 / academic honors – 3.50 and above) in University of California “a-g” courses only.

Course Requirements

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall enroll in a minimum of 60 credits of course work in grades 9, 10, and 11 and a minimum of 50 credits of course work in grade 12 to satisfactorily complete a minimum of 220 credits, including the following:

1. 40 credits in English, including English 1, English 2, English 3, and English 4, or their equivalents
2. 30 credits in mathematics, with 30 credits coming from 3 different levels of math, including one year of Algebra I or its equivalent.

Students may be awarded up to 10 mathematics credits 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. 20 credits in science, with the normal sequence for enrollment in grades 9, 10, and/or 11, including 10 credits of biological sciences and 10 credits of physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)

4. 30 credits in social studies, including 10 credits of world history, culture, geography or equivalent course; 10 credits of United States history, geography or equivalent course; 5 credits in American government and civics; and 5 credits in economics (Education Code 51225.3)
5. 10 credits in visual or performing arts or 10 credits in the same world language
6. 10 credits in a career technical education (CTE) or career-related course
7. 20 credits in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3), including 10 credits of PE 1 and 10 credits of PE 2, or equivalents

All students must take physical education in grade 9. A student who passes 5 of the 6 components of the Physical Fitness Test taken in grade 9 may defer the second year of required physical education until grade 11 or grade 12.

8. 5 credits in health

Incoming transfer students who have satisfactorily completed the health requirement in another school district with fewer than 5 credits will be deemed to have satisfied this requirement; however, the district minimum of 220 credits required for graduation shall continue to apply.

9. 55 credits in electives

Ethnic Studies

**Beginning with the Class of 2026, students must complete enrollment and participation in an ethnic studies course for at least one semester.
(Education Code 51225.3).**

In addition to the prescribed course work, all students shall complete meaningful civic and service learning experiences between grades 9 and 12. Students shall reflect on their civic and service learning experiences through the Capstone Program and/or other approved written, oral, or visual methods.

Alternative Means for Completion

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 from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

The individualized education program (IEP) team for each student with disabilities shall determine whether the student is eligible for exemption from all courses and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation as part of the alternative diploma pathway. A student with disabilities shall be eligible for the exemption, if he or she entered the ninth grade in the 2022-23 school year or later and the student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student has been deemed eligible by the IEP team to take the state alternate assessments, as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide course requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3

In addition, 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 a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, 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, student experiencing homelessness, 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)

Retroactive Diplomas

Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 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: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Persons who 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.

2. Former students who were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district 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.

3. Veterans who entered the military service of the United States 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 honorary high school diplomas 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 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)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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 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
51225.6 Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation
51228 Graduation requirements
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
51745 Independent study restrictions
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education
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

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>

Board of Trustees

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