



Huntington Beach Union High School District Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

BP 6146.1
Page 1 of 5

Instruction

High School Graduation Requirements

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma to enable them to take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment. Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after completing all requirements. A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, newly arrived immigrant student, and special education students identified through their IEP, may be eligible for specific exemptions from the district's graduation requirements in accordance with Education Code 51225.1 and 49701. In order to receive a diploma of graduation, students shall complete the following requirements:

1. Total credits required: 220
(Including 155 credits from required courses)
2. Required courses:

English	40 credits
World History	10 credits
U. S. History	10 credits
U. S. Government	5 credits
Economics	5 credits
Mathematics (including 1 year of Algebra or above)	30 credits
Physical Science	10 credits
Biological Science	10 credits
Health	5 credits
Physical Education	20 credits
Visual & Performing Arts or World Language or Career Technical Education	10 credits

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)

Instruction

High School Graduation Requirements (continued)

In order for a CTE course 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.

3. Complete all high school graduation requirements

The Superintendent shall ensure that parents are properly notified of progress towards graduation and will establish procedures for parent involvement and consultation in instances where a student has not met the credit, or course requirements.

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

District students are required to complete graduation course requirements specified above, including the requirements imposed by Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board. However, a foster youth, homeless student, 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 requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the individualized education program (IEP) team for each student with disabilities shall determine whether the student is eligible for exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, and if so, shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. A student with disabilities shall be eligible for the exemption, if the student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements:

1. That the student take the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 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.

InstructionHigh School Graduation Requirements (continued)**Retroactive Diplomas**

Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-2015 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 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. A deceased former student who satisfies these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin. (Education Code 51430)
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. (Education Code 51440)

InstructionHigh School Graduation Requirements (continued)

4. Students who were in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 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 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.

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	Student in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course
51225.3	High school graduation
51225.31	Exemption of individuals with exceptional needs for graduation
51225.35	Mathematics course requirements; computer science
51225.36	Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation

InstructionHigh School Graduation Requirements (continued)

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

RESOURCES WEBSITES

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

Adopted:	1-13-87
Revised:	2-11-92
Revised:	9-20-94
Revised:	3-13-01
Revised:	3-14-06
Revised:	11-18-08
Revised:	7-13-10
Revised:	5-8-12
Revised:	5-10-16
Revised:	6-27-17
Revised:	11-19-19
Revised:	5-11-21
Revised:	9-19-23