

# Santa Barbara Unified School District

## Board Policy

**BP 6146.1**

### **Instruction**

#### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma so that they can take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*

*(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

*(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*

*(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)*

#### **Course Requirements**

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete at least the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year (or the equivalent combination of two semester courses) unless otherwise specified:

1. Four courses in English

*(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)*

2. Three courses in mathematics

For the graduating classes of 2018 and 2019, at least one mathematics course, or a combination of the three mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Mathematics I. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Mathematics I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12.

For the graduating classes of 2020 and beyond, at least one mathematics course, or a combination of the three mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Mathematics II. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Mathematics II requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12.

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)

*(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)*

*(cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)*

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

*(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)*

4. Three courses in social studies, including United States 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)*

5. One course in visual or performing arts, or foreign language, including American Sign Language.

*(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)*

*(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)*

*(cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)*

*(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)*

6. Two additional courses in areas 1 through 5 above, or in career technical education, or technology 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)*

8. One semester course in family health

9. One semester course in ethnic studies, for class of 2024 and beyond

*(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)*

*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health Education)*

### **Other Requirements**

1. 60 hours of community service, targeted toward potential career pathways when possible, or 60 hours of an unpaid non-credit earning internship; or a combination of the two

*(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)*

2. Completion of a 10-year college and career-readiness plan prior to beginning tenth grade

Schools are encouraged to expand the offering of online courses and develop programs with more flexible credit-earning options such as internships and senior projects.

Students shall be enrolled in the minimum number of courses that are eligible to claim apportionment funding.

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.

*(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)*

*(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)*

*(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)*

The Superintendent or designee can also exempt or waive specific course requirements for students enrolling late in their high school career who came from a high school with lesser graduation requirements than the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

## Exemptions and Waivers

A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, or child of a military family who transfers into the district any time after completing his/her second year of high school shall be required to complete all graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional district-adopted graduation requirements, unless 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 his/her fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer, any such student shall be notified of the availability of the exemption and whether he/she qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*

*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*

*(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)*

*(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)*

*(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)*

*(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)*

## 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)

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. (Education Code 51430)

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. (Education Code 51440)

## Summary of Required Courses and Credits

English	40 credits
Mathematics	30 credits
Science	20 credits
Social Studies	30 credits
Visual or Performing Arts; or Foreign Language	10 credits
English; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies; Visual or Performing Arts; Foreign Language; Career Technical Education; or Technology Education	20 credits
Physical Education	20 credits
Family Health	5 credits
Ethnic Studies* (5 credits)	
Additional Elective Courses	45 credits
Total Credits:	220 credits

\*Note: Ethnic Studies requirement can be fulfilled through the successful completion of a qualifying course that meets the district's ethnic studies specifications.

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

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  
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  
4600-4687 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/g/hs>  
University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:  
<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Barbara, California April 12, 2016; November 13, 2018; May 14, 2019