

San Dieguito Union High School District

High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

Instruction

The Governing Board 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.

Course Requirements

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete the following courses in grades 9 through 12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified.

A total of 230 semester periods of credit earned in grades 9-12. Included within the 230 credits that students must earn are the following:

1. Four courses in English: English 9, English 10, English 11, English 12 or equivalent
2. Three courses in mathematics in grades 9-12. At least one mathematics course shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I (or a course equivalent), per Ed. Code 51224.5. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Algebra I or Mathematics I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12.
3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences
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 as follows:
 - One course of World History in grade 10
 - One course of United States History in grade 11
 - One semester of American Government in grade 12
 - One semester of Economics in grade 12
5. One course in visual or performing arts (see UC/CSU admission rules)
6. Two courses (four semesters) in physical education in grades 9-10, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code
7. One course in Practical Arts/Career Technical Education

The Board of Trustees delegates to the Superintendent or designee the authority to waive a high school graduation requirement. 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 the 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, 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.

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.

In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who:

1. 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. 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 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. Are 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
4. 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 an honorary high school diploma to:

1. A student who is terminally ill

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

47612 Enrollment in charter school

48200 Children between ages of 6 and 18 years (compulsory full-time education)

48204.4 Evidence of residency for school enrollment

48412 Certificate of proficiency

48430 Continuation education schools and classes

48645.5 Enrollment of former juvenile court school students

48980 Annual notification to parents/guardians

49701 Flexibility in enrollment of children of military families

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; foster youth, homeless youth, former juvenile court school students and military-connected students

51225.3 Graduation requirements; courses that satisfy college entrance criteria

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 Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation
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
51745 Independent study
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 DECISION
A.M. v. Albertsons, LLC, (2009) Cal.App.4th 455

Management Resources:

WEB SITE

[AASA The School Superintendents Association](#)

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