

## Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/05/2019 | Last Revised Date: 04/04/2024 | Last Reviewed Date: 04/04/2024

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.

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.

### Course Requirements

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

1. Four courses in English (Education Code 51225.3)
2. Three courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

Students shall complete at least one mathematics course that meets the state academic content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Students may complete such coursework prior to grade 9 provided that they also complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

Successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category C" course based on the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) "A-G" admission requirements shall be counted toward the satisfaction of additional graduation requirements in mathematics. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences **or equivalent integrated science courses** (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Three courses in social studies, including United States (U.S.) 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)
5. ~~One course in visual or performing arts, world language, or career technical education (CTE).~~ **One course in visual or performing arts** and **two courses in the same world language**. For purposes of this requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in world language.

**Two CTE courses in the same industry sector pathway.** 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. (Education Code 51225.3)

6. Two courses in physical education, **including fulfilling health education requirements**, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3)
7. **One course in personal finance starting with the graduating class of 2031 (Education Code 51225.3).**
8. Beginning with the 2029-30 school year, a one-semester course in ethnic studies (Education Code 51225.3)
9. ~~See current policy for health, career education, portfolio and credit requirements.~~ **Graduation requirements shall include successful completion of coursework within a Career Technical Education (CTE) industry sector pathway, the development and presentation of a senior portfolio demonstrating academic achievement and college and career readiness skills, and the attainment of a minimum of 260 credits out of a possible 280 credits.**

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.

**To support these alternative pathways and ensure equitable access to diploma attainment while accurately reflecting student learning, the Superintendent or designee is authorized to exercise administrative discretion in reassigning, reclassifying, or accepting credits toward graduation requirements for students on individualized graduation pathways.**

### **Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements**

Additionally, a student with disabilities shall be eligible for an exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, if the student's individualized education program (IEP) provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

That the student is eligible to take the alternate assessment as described in Education Code 60640

That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

The district's responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education shall not terminate when a student with a disability who is exempted from district- adopted graduation requirements participates in graduation activities unless the IEP team, which includes the parent/guardian and student, has determined that the student has completed the high school experience. (Education Code 51225.31)

# CSBA POLICY GUIDE SHEET

May 2026

Note: Descriptions below identify revisions made to CSBA's sample board policies, administrative regulations, board bylaws, and/or exhibits. Editorial changes and minor revisions have also been made. Districts and county offices of education should review the sample materials and modify their own policies accordingly.

## **NEW - Board Policy 5141.75 - Weather Safety**

New policy addresses safety related to various forms of inclement weather, and reflects requirement for districts to, by July 1, 2026, develop, adopt, and implement weather protocols for extreme weather conditions. Additionally, policy reflects CDE's "Senate Bill 1248: Extreme Weather Guidelines," and incorporates content from former Board Policy 5141.7 - Sun Safety.

## **Board Policy 5142 - Safety**

Policy updated to add to the Governing Board's philosophical statement that the Board recognizes the importance of student engagement and safe use of technology to a safe school environment. Additionally, policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 848, 2025)** which mandates districts to, by July 1, 2026, adopt written (1) policies that promote safe environments for student learning and engagement, with specified components related to professional boundaries, and (2) policies, plans, or specifications regarding school facilities that address classroom and nonclassroom environments to promote safe environments for learning and engagement that are easily supervised.

## **Board Policy 7110 - Facilities Master Plan**

Policy updated to clarify in the Governing Board's philosophical statement that long-range planning is important for carrying out the district's vision, mission, and goals. Additionally, policy updated to reflect **NEW LAW (SB 848, 2025)** which requires the Board to, by July 1, 2026, adopt written policies, plans or specifications for the design and construction of facilities, including furnishing of such facilities, that promote safe environments for learning and engagement.