

CVUSD

Board Policy

BP 6146.1

High School Graduation Requirements

Instruction

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.

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

Course Requirements

The following course of study is the minimum required for CVUSD students.

1. Four courses in English (equivalent of 40 credits)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Three courses in mathematics (equivalent of 30 credits)

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses required for completion in grades 9-12, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I. (Education Code 51224.5)

Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework that meets or exceeds state academic content standards shall satisfy the algebra coursework requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (equivalent of 30 credits)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (equivalent of 20 credits)

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

4. Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography (equivalent of 10 credits) world history, culture, and geography (equivalent of 10 credits); a one-semester course in American government and civics (equivalent of 5 credits) ; and a one-

semester course in economics (equivalent of 5 credits)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.93 - History-Social Science Instruction)

Note: Education Code 51225.3 authorizes the Board to include a course in career technical education (CTE) as an alternative to the visual or performing arts or foreign language course requirement for high school graduation. If the Board chooses to do so, it must, at a regular Board meeting prior to allowing a CTE course as an alternative, notify parents/guardians, students, teachers, and the public of information specified in Education Code 51225.3. In addition, the information must be included in the district's annual notification to parents/guardians pursuant to Education Code 48980; see the accompanying administrative regulation

***Note: The CTE course may be offered through different means, including a district-operated program, regional occupational center or program, or county office of education program pursuant to a joint powers agreement. See BP/AR 6178 - Career Technical Education and BP 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program for program details pertaining to CTE. ***

5. One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language (including American Sign Language) or career technical education (equivalent of 10 credits) (Education Code 51225.3)

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a course in career technical education shall be aligned to the career technical model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.

(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 courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (equivalent of 20 credits)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)

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)

7. One semester course in health education (equivalent of 5 credits)

8. Electives: Satisfactory completion of (75) elective credits

Maximum Student Course Load

1. A thirty (30) credit class schedule per semester is a typical student course load. The site principal or designee may approve an increase in student course load not to exceed forty five (45) credits. The principal's decision will be final.
2. A ten (10) credit class schedule is a typical summer school course load. Qualified students may take an additional five (5) credits.

Online Learning

Correspondence instruction or online learning from a California university or college accredited for teacher training in accordance with 5 CCR 1633 (Education Code 51740-51741). These courses must be from an accredited (WASC or any other regional accrediting association or commission) university, college, or University of California approved online provider. In addition, all courses taken must also be approved by the accredited university, college, or University of California approved online provider.

A student can earn up to 40 high school credits total through correspondence instruction or online learning while enrolled full time at a comprehensive high school. Letter grades (A, B, C, D, F) are to be recorded at the level (AP, Honors, CP, Standard) of the course that is taken.

Parents/Guardians and students are responsible for determining the accreditation status of correspondence and online courses taken separate from CVUSD. Only accredited courses taken from accredited institutions can be applied towards graduation requirements. In addition, factors such as NCAA eligibility should be investigated and considered in advance of courses being taken if applicable. The Board of Education strongly recommends that parents/guardians and students seek guidance from counselors or administrative staff prior to enrolling in correspondence and online courses.

Credits granted by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredited secondary schools will be accepted for full value by secondary schools in the District. The District will also grant credits earned at schools accredited with WASC affiliates throughout the United States, namely: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Schools accredited by other accrediting associations not affiliated with WASC or non-accredited by any association will not be accepted by secondary schools in the District.

Full Day Student

A full day student status requires a minimum of six high school classes for students in grades 9-11 and a minimum of five high school classes for students in grade 12 at any CVUSD traditional high school. For students attending Century Academy or Conejo Valley High School, a full day program is defined as a minimum of four classes per day.

(cf. 6146.12)

Transfer

A senior transfer student must enter prior to the fourth quarter to graduate from a District comprehensive high school. Senior transfer students who enter during the fourth quarter may petition the Principal for permission to graduate from a District comprehensive school. The Principal's decision will be final.

***Note: Education Code 51225.1, as added by AB 216 (Ch. 324, Statutes of 2013), requires the district to exempt from any district-adopted coursework or graduation requirements a foster youth who transfers into the district or between district high schools after completing his/her second year of high school, unless the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the youth is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of his/her fourth year of high school; see BP/AR 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth. This exemption does not apply to state graduation requirements for course completion or the high school exit examination described below in the section "High School Exit Examination." ***

***Note: In addition, Education Code 49701 requires district officials to help facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families by waiving specific course requirements for graduation if the student has satisfactorily completed similar coursework in another district. If the district does not grant such a waiver, then "best efforts" must be used to provide the student with alternative means to acquire the required coursework so that he/she can graduate on time. See BP/AR 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families for language implementing this requirement. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth or children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.3 and 49701.

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

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

High School Exit Examination

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 60850-60859, all students completing grade 12 must pass the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) in language arts and mathematics in order to receive a high school diploma. For students with disabilities, waivers and/or exemptions may apply; see BP/AR 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination. ***

As a condition of high school graduation, each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics unless he/she receives a waiver or exemption. (Education Code 60851, 60859)

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

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

***Note: Education Code 60851 requires the district to provide supplemental instruction to students in grades 7-12 who do not demonstrate "sufficient progress" toward passing the high school exit exam. Although funding for the categorical program for this purpose (Education Code 37252) was redirected into the local control funding formula pursuant to AB 97 (Ch. 47, Statutes of 2013), the requirement to provide supplemental instruction was not eliminated. The district must determine what criteria will be used to identify students who do not demonstrate "sufficient progress"; see BP 6179 - Supplemental Instruction. ***

Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student in grade 7-12 who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in BP 6179 - Supplemental Instruction, toward passing the exit exam. (Education Code 37252, 60851)

(cf. 5148.2 - Before/After School Programs)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)
(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)
(cf. 6177 - Summer School)
(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

Students who have not passed one or both parts of the exit exam by the end of grade 12 shall have the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after completion of grade 12 or until they have passed both parts of the exam, whichever comes first. (Education Code 37254)

(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Certificates of Completion

Students who have passed all the district's course requirements by the end of their senior year but are unable to pass the high school exit exam shall receive a certificate of completion indicating that they have completed the required course of study.

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students receiving a certificate of completion and the resources that have been offered to such students.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

37252 Supplemental instructional programs
37254 Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit exam by end of grade 12
37254.1 Required student participation in supplemental instruction
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
51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements
51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course
51224.5 Algebra instruction
51225.3 Requirements for graduation
51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students
51228 Graduation requirements
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents
51410-51412 Diplomas
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates
51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
51745 Independent study restrictions
52378 Supplemental school counseling program
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education
60850-60859 High school exit examination
66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
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/gc/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

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