



5012.1 (?) Graduation Requirements

Effective Date:

Approved by: Board of Directors

Policy:

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their opportunities for post-secondary education and employment.

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

1. Four courses in English.
2. Three courses in mathematics, or a combination of math courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standard for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Completion of such coursework before grade 9 shall satisfy the Algebra I 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 a biological and physical science.
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.
5. Two courses in visual or performing arts, world language, or career technical education (CTE). For this requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in a world language. 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.
6. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted according to other sections of the Education Code.
7. One semester of Ethnic Studies, commencing with pupils graduating in the 2028–29 school year
8. One semester of a separate, standalone course in Personal Finance, commencing with pupils graduating in the 2028-29 school year. A pupil who completes the required personal finance course may elect to be exempt from the one-semester economics course.
9. In addition to the required courses listed above, students must complete additional coursework to reach a minimum total of 220 credits.

Exemptions from Charter-Adopted Graduation Requirements

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.

- The school reserves the right to waive one or more local graduation requirements for students who, due to special circumstances or extreme need, are unable to meet these requirements. Such waivers will be considered on a case-by-case basis, requiring documentation of the circumstances and approval from the Superintendent or designee. All decisions will prioritize the student's overall educational goals and readiness for post-secondary success.
- In accordance with state law and California Department of Education (CDE) guidance, students with disabilities may be considered for alternative options to the standard high school diploma based on the decision of their Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.
 - The Alternative Pathway Diploma is a diploma option available to students with disabilities when the IEP team determines that the student meets the criteria set forth by the CDE. Students who receive the alternative pathway diploma are eligible to remain in a public school until 22 years of age.
 - The Certificate of Completion (COC) is an option available to students with disabilities when the IEP team determines that the student meets the criteria set forth by JCS. The COC is not a high school diploma and is issued in recognition of the participation and completion of the student's individualized high school program. Students who receive the COC are eligible to remain in a public school until 22 years of age.

These exemptions and alternative pathways do not alter the school's expectation that students complete a full four-year high school program. While individual requirements may be adjusted, the overall duration and integrity of the high school experience remain central to ensuring each student's preparation for post-secondary success.

Visual Supplement - (Not part of policy)

<p>Students entering first year of high school <i>before</i> the 2025-2026 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English- 4 years (40 units) • Math- 3 years (30 units); • Physical/Earth Science 1 year (10 units with lab) • Biological/Life Science 1 year (10 units with lab) • US History-1 year (10 units) • World History-1 year (10 units) • Economics-1 semester (5 units) • American Government-1 semester (5 units) • Foreign Language/VAPA 2 years (20 units) • Physical Education-2 years (20 units) • Other coursework (60 units) <p>Total Credits to Graduate with a Diploma 220</p>	<p>Students entering first year of high school in or after the 2025-2026 school year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English- 4 years (40 units) • Math- 3 years (30 units); • Physical/Earth Science 1 year (10 units with lab) • Biological/Life Science 1 year (10 units with lab) • US History-1 year (10 units) • World History-1 year (10 units) • Economics-1 semester (5 units) • American Government-1 semester (5 units) • Foreign Language/VAPA 2 years (20 units) • Physical Education-2 years (20 units) • Ethnic Studies (5 units) • Personal Finance (5 units) • Other coursework (50 units) <p>Total Credits to Graduate with a Diploma 220</p>
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Notes on main changes

- Sunsetting out writing, health, life skills requirements
- Adding ethnic studies
- Adding financial literacy
- Added language about waiving local requirements, and other exemptions