

## High School Graduation Requirements

The Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with 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*)

(cf. [6146.5](#) - *Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements*)

(cf. [6164.2](#) - *Guidance/Counseling Services*)

## Course Requirements

Students shall receive diplomas of graduation from high school only after completing the prescribed course of study and meeting the standards of proficiency established by the district.

Each regular student at South Pasadena High School carries a semester load of six regular subjects, including physical education. Allowing 10 credits for each full year course taken, the regular student completes 240 credits during his/her four years of high school. As a minimum requirement he/she must complete 220 credits at the time of graduation and must measure up to the standards of conduct and character set by the school in determining the total number of units for graduation students should include those earned in ninth grade. Specific requirements are listed below.

The prescribed course of study for students in grades 9 through 12 shall include. (Education Code [51225.3](#))

1. Complete 45 hours of community service approved in advance by the administration.
2. Complete 220 credits including the following courses:
  - a. English and Literature: Four Years (Education Code [51225.3](#))

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

- b. Mathematics: Two years and an additional year of math or science or computer science (Education Code [51225.3](#))

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

~~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](#))~~

(cf. [6011](#) - Academic Standards)

(cf. [6142.92](#) - Mathematics Instruction)

c. Science: Two years, **including biological and physical sciences**, and an additional year of math or science or computer science (Education Code [51225.3](#))

(cf. [6142.93](#) - Science Instruction)

d. Social Studies: Three years 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](#))

e. Fine Arts: One year of either visual and performing Arts, foreign language or American Sign Language, or career technical education (CTE) (Education Code [51225.3](#))

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.

(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)

f. Physical Education: Two years in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code [51225.3](#)).

Marching Band Fall can meet requirement (Four semesters)

(cf. [6142.7](#) - Physical Education)

g. Health and Wellness: One semester

h. Computer Literacy: One Semester (This requirement will end with the graduating class of 2015).

i. Personal Skills: A second year of foreign language or one year in career technical 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)

(cf. [6146.4](#) – Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

~~The Board recognizes that the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students. The Board, with the active involvement of parents/guardians, administrators, teachers and students, shall adopt alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses, which may include:~~

~~(cf. [6146.11](#) *Alternative Credits Toward Graduation*)~~

~~(cf. [6146.2](#) *Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency*)~~

**1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies**

~~(cf. [6155](#) *Class Examinations/Challenging Courses by Examinations*)~~

**2. Work experience or other outside school experience**

~~(cf. [6178.1](#) *Work Experience Education*)~~

**3. Vocational education classes offered in high schools**

~~(cf. [6178](#) *Vocational Education*)~~

**4. Courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs**

**5. Interdisciplinary study**

**6. Independent study**

~~(cf. [6158](#) *Independent Study*)~~

**7. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution**

~~Requirements for graduation and specified alternative means for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to students, parents/guardians and the public.  
(Education Code [51225.3](#))~~

~~(cf. [5118](#) *Transfers*)~~

~~(cf. [5127](#) *Graduation Ceremonies and Activities*)~~

~~(cf. [6146.3](#) *Reciprocity on Standards of Proficiency/Graduation Requirements*)~~

Students may have no outstanding debts to the district or school, including, but not limited to, any lost or unreturned textbooks.

~~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](#)~~

**The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth, homeless students, and children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.1 and 49701.**

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

*(cf. [6173.1](#) - Education for Foster Youth)*

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

## **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)~~

~~Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student who in grades 7-12 does not demonstrate "sufficient progress" toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code [37252](#), [60851](#))~~

~~(cf. [5148.2](#) - Before/After School Programs)~~

~~(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 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**

~~High school students who have met all state and local graduation requirements, except passage of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), may be eligible for a Certificate of Completion.~~

~~Successful passage of the CAHSEE is a state law requirement for a high school diploma. A Certificate of Completion is not a diploma; it merely reflects the student's completion of all the graduation requirements other than CAHSEE. A student who receives a Certificate of Completion may not claim to have received a high school diploma.~~

~~The district makes no representation as to whether or for what purpose, if any, a college, university, trade school, prospective employer, or other entity will recognize a Certificate of Completion.~~

~~To be eligible for a Certificate of Completion, a student must:~~

~~1. Complete the required course of study and earn all necessary credits under the California Education Code and the district's approved curriculum.~~

~~2. Attempt the CAHSEE at each of the six opportunities during his/her high school matriculation. Failure to take the CAHSEE in at least five of the six opportunities for any reason will preclude the issuance of a Certificate of Completion.~~

~~3. Participate in all available CAHSEE intervention classes beginning in the summer before his/her senior year and throughout his/her senior year. Failure to participate in an available intervention opportunity, for any reason, will preclude the issuance of a Certificate of Completion.~~

~~4. Participate in all school scheduled parent and student conferences regarding the student's performance on the CAHSEE, the required interventions, and the consequences of not passing the CAHSEE.~~

~~5. Have no outstanding debts to the district or school, including, but not limited to, any lost or unreturned textbooks.~~

~~In the case of a transfer student, upon entrance into the South Pasadena Unified School District, the student should be on track to graduate from his/her previous school. Students must meet the requirements enumerated in items #1-5 above from entry date forward.~~

~~Students who qualify for a Certificate of Completion may participate in all senior activities, including commencement. Certificates of Completion will be distributed at the same time as diplomas.~~

~~Students who are issued a Certificate of Completion and pass or receive notification of passing the CAHSEE after the date of completion shall receive a diploma upon said notification.~~

~~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.~~

## **Retroactive Diplomas**

**Until July 31, 2018, any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 school year or a subsequent school year and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma. (Education Code 60851.6)**

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. (Education Code [51430](#))

In addition, the Board may retroactively grant a diploma to a deceased former student who satisfies the above conditions. The diploma shall be received by the deceased student's 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](#))

*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

[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**

[51225.5](#) 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

[56390-56392](#) Recognition for educational achievement, special education

**[60851.5](#) Suspension of high school exit examination**

~~[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/gs/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g

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

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