

Instruction

High School Graduation Requirements

The Board of Education 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 and those adopted by the Board, except for students who are exempted as provided in "Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements," below. 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.

A. Course Requirements

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

1. Satisfactory completion of a minimum of two hundred and twenty (220) credits earned in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.
2. The following courses are required as part of the 220 semester credits taken in grades 9 through 12:
 - a. English - 4 years (40 credits), including English 9 and English 10 (Education Code 51225.3)
 - b. Mathematics - 20 credits Grades 9-12 - including courses of study that include Integrated Math I and II Standards (Education Code 51225.3)

Integrated Math I and II courses successfully completed in grades 7 and or 8 can be used to meet this requirement. However, students are required to complete a minimum of 20 units of mathematics in grades 9-12 regardless of mathematics courses completed in grades 7 and 8. All students are encouraged to complete Integrated Math III and beyond to complete A-G requirements and be college and career ready.
 - c. Science - Requirements beginning with the class of 2024: 3 years (30 credits), including 1 year of Living Earth, 1 year of Chemistry in the Earth System and 1 year of Physics of the Universe (or AP Physics I)

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- d. Social Science - 3 years (30 credits), including 1 year World History, Culture and Geography, 1 year U.S. History, Culture and Geography, 1 semester American Government and Civics, and 1 semester Economics (Education Code 51225.3)
- e. One year (10 credits) in visual or performing arts, Language other than English (LOTE)*, or career technical education (CTE). For purposes of this requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in world language. (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. (Education Code 51225.3)

* University of California A-G admission requirements include a minimum of 2 years of LOTE proficiency and 1 full year of VAPA credits.

- f. Health - 1 semester (5 credits)
- g. Physical Education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code, - 2 years (20 credits) (Education Code 51225.3)
- h. Ethnic Studies - Beginning with the class of 2029 (requirement for all 9th graders starting in the 2025-26 school year), 1 semester (5 credits)
- i. Electives – Remaining credits may be earned with general elective or any subject categories above

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.

Students in grade 12 shall be enrolled in at least five courses each semester. Students in grade 12 must be enrolled in a minimum of four courses each semester if they are also enrolled in one or more of the following: after-school career and technical education programs, community college courses, continuation education classes, work experience

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education programs, and special education programs as designated by the individualized education program.

B. Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the individualized education program (IEP) team for each student with disabilities shall determine whether the student is eligible for exemption from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation, and if so, shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. A student with disabilities shall be eligible for the exemption, if the student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student takes the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

In addition, 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 into a school by a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student, 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 from local graduation requirements and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

C. 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

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examination shall be granted a high school diploma. (Education Code 51413)

In addition, the District may retroactively grant high school diplomas to former students who: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

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 who 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

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requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

D. Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to: (Education Code 51225.5)

1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of study ordinarily required for graduation and who is returning to the home country following the completion of one academic school year in the District.
2. A student who is terminally ill.

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the District. (Education Code 51225.5)

Legal Reference: Education Code, Sections 220; 47612; 48200; 48204.4; 48412; 48430; 48645.5; 48980; 49701; 51224; 51224.5; 51225.1; 51225.2; 51225.3; 51225.31; 51225.35; 51225.36; 51225.5; 51225.6; 51225.7; 51228; 51230; 51240-51246; 51250-51251; 51410-51413; 51420-51427; 51430; 51440; 51450-51455; 51744-51749.6; 56390-56392; 60640; 66204; 67386
Code of Regulations, Title 5, Sections 1600-1651; 4600-4670
Court Decisions: O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

Policy Adopted: 08/19/62

Policy Amended: 05/1963; 12/1965; 04/1966; 03/1967; 09/1969; 04/1970; 03/1972; 01/1973; 05/1975; 01/1978; 04/1978; 05/1980; 03/1983; 01/1984; 06/1985; 05/21/1996; 06/09/1997; 06/23/1999; 12/05/2000; 10/15/2002; 09/02/2003; 3/23/2010; 11/16/2010; 09/03/2019; 02/16/2021; 05/25/2021; 11/16/2021; 07/11/2023

(Formerly BP 5216)