

# Santa Barbara Unified School District

## Board Policy

### Instruction

BP 6146.1

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete at least 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)

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

2. Three courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3)

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)

Students who enter high school having completed algebra and geometry may complete only two mathematics courses.

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 two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Education Code 51224.5)

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*  
*(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)*

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)*

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 (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)*  
*(cf. 6142.93 - History-Social Science Instruction)*

5. One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, or American Sign Language (Education Code 51225.3)

*(cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)*

6. Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been otherwise exempted pursuant to other sections of the Education Code (Education Code 51225.3)

*(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)*  
*(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)*

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 can also exempt or waive specific course requirements for students enrolling late in their high school career who came from a high school with lesser graduation requirements than the Santa Barbara Unified School District.

*(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 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. 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)*

The Superintendent or designee shall regularly report to the Board regarding the number of students who have fulfilled all local and state graduation requirements except for the passage of the exit exam and the resources that have been offered to such students.

### **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.

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**

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)

The district also 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

35186 *Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures*  
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*  
49701 *Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*  
51224 *Skills and knowledge required for adult life*  
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, California High School Exit Examination:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>

Policy: SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Adopted: May 5, 2009 Santa Barbara, California  
Revised: April 27, 2010