

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 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. Course requirements for graduation include a prescribed sequence of required classes listed below along with electives for a total of 220 units. The prescribed course of study for students in grades 9 through 12 shall include (Education Code 51225.3)

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>REQUIRED CATEGORY Starting with the Class of 2008</b>	<b>UNITS REQUIRED Present</b>	<b>CA STATE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS</b>
<b>English (40 Units)</b>	English 1 English 2 English 3 English 4	10 10 10 10	<b>40 Units</b> 4 years of college preparatory courses	<b>40 Units</b> 4 years of college preparatory courses
<b>Mathematics(20 Units)</b> Algebra I Integrated Math requirement with 20 units completed in high school	Math Integrated Math 1	20 +	<b>30 Units</b> 3 years of college preparatory courses	<b>30 Units</b> 3 years of college preparatory courses (4 recommended)
<b>Science (25 Units)</b>	Health Physical Science Life Science (Biology)	5 10 10	<b>20 Units</b> 2 years of a lab science (one biology, one physical)	<b>20 Units</b> 2 years of a lab science (3 recommended)
<b>Social Science (30 Units)</b>	World History/Cultures United States History Civics/Economics	10 10 10	<b>20 Units</b> U.S. History/Social Sciences	<b>20 Units</b> World History and U.S. History or H.S. History and Civics
<b>P. E. (20 Units)</b> Required for 9th grade students	Core P.E./Integrated Core PE Physical Education 2**	10 10	<b>None</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Foreign Language/Visual Performing Arts/CTE (10 units)</b>	Foreign Language Visual and Performing Arts Career Technical Education	10	<b>20 Units</b> of Foreign Language <b>and</b> <b>10 Units</b> of Visual and Performing Arts	<b>20 Units</b> of Foreign Language (3 recomm.) <b>and 10</b> <b>Units</b> of Visual and Performing Arts

\*\*Athletic P.E. exemptions can only be used for the second year of P.E. if no P.E. course was taken that semester.

revised: November 2001 by the High School Graduation Requirements Committee  
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 revised: June 8, 2004  
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 revised: July 12, 2005  
 Revised: May 11, 2010  
 Revised: April 24, 2012  
 revised: June 21, 2016

**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 employment.

*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*

*(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

*(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. Two courses in mathematics (Education Code 51225.3) for students graduating in 2022 or earlier and three courses in mathematics beginning with the class of 2023

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)

Students may be awarded up to one mathematics course credit for successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category c" course based on the "a-g" course requirements for college admission. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)

*(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)*

*(cf. 6152.1 - Placement in Mathematics Courses)*

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. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)*

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

5. One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, including 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)*

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 and Activity)*

7. One semester-long course in health

*(cf. 6142.1 - Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction)*  
*(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)*  
*(cf. 6142.8 - Comprehensive Health 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)*

### **Exemptions and Waivers**

A foster youth, homeless student, or former juvenile court school student who transfers into the district any time after completing his/her second year of high school shall be required to complete all graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional district-adopted graduation requirements, unless 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 his/her fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer, any such student shall be notified of the availability of the exemption and whether he/she qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

*(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)*  
*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*  
*(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)*  
*(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)*  
*(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)*

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall 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. (Education Code 49701)

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

**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. A deceased former student who satisfies these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by his/her 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 CODE47612 *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*

*Legal Reference continued: (see next page)*

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

### *Legal Reference: (continued)*

#### EDUCATION CODE (continued)

51225.36 *Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation*

51225.5 *Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students*

51225.6 *Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation*

51228 *Graduation requirements*

51240-51246 *Exemptions from requirements*

51250-51251 *Assistance to military dependents*

51410-51412 *Diplomas*

51420-51427 *High school equivalency certificates*

51430 *Retroactive high school diplomas*

51440 *Retroactive high school diplomas*

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*

60851.6 *Retroactive diploma; completion of all graduation requirements except high school exit examination*

66204 *Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria*

67386 *Student safety; affirmative consent standard*

#### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1600-1651 *Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation*

4600-4687 *Uniform complaint procedures*

#### 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>

Policy

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**VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Visalia, California