

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY/HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY

The Governing Board desires that every student have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma through successful completion of class work and examination. However, when a student is unable to do so, the Board encourages completion of an alternative program that allows him/her to obtain an equivalent certificate.

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
(cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

Eligible persons may obtain a certificate of proficiency or a high school equivalency certificate in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall make information available to interested persons regarding the eligibility and examination requirements of each program.

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE
48400-48403 Persons subject to compulsory continuation education
48410 Persons exempt from continuation classes
48412 Certificate of proficiency; examination fees
48413 Enrollment in continuation classes
48414 Reenrollment in district
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificate
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
11520-11523 Proficiency examination and certificate
11530-11532 High school equivalency certificate (GED)
Management Resources:
CDE PUBLICATIONS
Adult Education Handbook for California, 1997
WEB SITES
CDE, GED Office: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ged>
CDE, High School Proficiency: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/chspe>

Policy
adopted: August 21, 2001
revised: July 12, 2005

VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY/HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY**Certificate of Proficiency**

The principal of each school maintaining grades 11 and 12 shall distribute to each student in those grades an announcement explaining the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE). Announcements from the California Department of Education (CDE) or its contractor shall be distributed early enough to enable interested students to register for the test to be given in the fall of that year. (5 CCR 11523)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

The principal also shall advise students that the certificate of proficiency awarded upon passing the CHSPE, while equivalent to a high school diploma, is not the equivalent of completing all coursework required for high school graduation and therefore students should contact the admissions office of the college or university they are interested in attending to determine if the certificate satisfies college admission requirements.

Any student may take the CHSPE if he/she meets one of the following conditions: (Education Code 48412)

1. Is age 16 or older
2. Has been enrolled in the 10th grade for one school year or longer
3. Will complete one school year of enrollment in 10th grade at the end of the semester during which the CHSPE will be administered

If a student receives the certificate of proficiency, the district shall indicate the student's accomplishment and the date of the award on the student's official transcript. (5 CCR 11521)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Any student who has received the certificate of proficiency may be exempted from compulsory school attendance upon his/her request, with verified parent/guardian consent as appropriate. (Education Code 48410)

(cf. 5112.1 - Exemptions from Attendance)

The consent form to be exempted from compulsory school attendance shall be provided by the Superintendent or designee and shall contain at least the following information: (5 CCR 11522)

1. A general explanation of the student's rights of exemption from compulsory attendance and of re-enrollment in the public schools

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2. The date of issuance of the certificate of proficiency
3. The signature of the parent/guardian and the date
4. The signature of the school administrator who has personally confirmed the authenticity of the parent/guardian's signature and the date

If a student age 16 or 17 terminates his/her enrollment after receiving the high school proficiency certificate, he/she may re-enroll in the district. If he/she subsequently terminates enrollment again, he/she may be denied re-enrollment until the beginning of the following semester. (Education Code 48414)

(cf. 6184 - Continuation Education)

High School Equivalency Certificate

An eligible person may earn a high school equivalency certificate by passing a general educational development test designated by the State Board of Education pursuant to Education Code 51420, including the General Educational Development (GED) test, the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), or the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC).

Any person is eligible to take a test leading to a high school equivalency certificate if he/she is a resident of California or a member of the armed forces assigned to duty in California and meets any one of the following criteria: (Education Code 51420; 5 CCR 11532)

1. Is 18 years of age or older, or is within 60 days of his/her 18th birthday, regardless of enrollment status
2. Is not currently enrolled in school and is within 60 days of when he/she would have graduated from high school had he/she remained in school and followed the usual course of study
3. Is 17 years of age, has been out of school for at least 60 consecutive days, and provides a letter of request for the test from the military, a postsecondary educational institution, or a prospective employer
4. Is 17 years of age, has accumulated fewer than 100 units of high school credit, is confined to a state or county hospital or to an institution maintained by a state or county correctional facility, and meets other criteria listed in 5 CCR 11532

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5. Is 17 years of age, has accumulated fewer than 100 units of high school credit prior to enrollment in an academic program offered by a dropout recovery high school as defined in Education Code 52052, and has successfully completed the dropout recovery high school's instructional program which is aligned to state standards, offers the opportunity for a high school diploma, and provides services for at least one year

Regulation

Approved August 21, 2001

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