

# CVUSD

## Board Policy

BP 6146.1

### High School Graduation Requirements

#### Instruction

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. Further, the Board recognizes the need for alternative pathways to graduation that may include Career Technical Education pathways, distant learning, dual/concurrent enrollment, or leveled course work that meets State content standards and District requirements.

- (cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)
- (cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)
- (cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)
- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
- (cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
- (cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

#### Course Requirements

The following course of study is the minimum required for CVUSD students.

1. Four courses in English (equivalent of 40 credits)

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. Three courses in mathematics (equivalent of 30 credits)

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) The CVUSD offers Algebra 1A and Algebra 1B, a two-year mathematics course sequence that fulfills the state academic content standards for Algebra I.

- a. 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 three mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (Equivalent of 30 credits)
- b. However, a pupil who before enrollment in grade nine completes a course in Geometry or any course of equal or greater rigor that is aligned to the content standards adopted by the state board shall receive high school credit, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete three mathematics courses in grades 9-12.
- c. 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. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences (equivalent of 20 credits)

(cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)

4. Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography (equivalent of 10 credits) world history, culture, and geography (equivalent of 10 credits); a one-semester course in American government and civics (equivalent of 5 credits) ; and a one-semester course in economics (equivalent of 5 credits)

(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)

(cf. 6142.93 - History-Social Science Instruction)

5. One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language (including American Sign Language) or career technical education (equivalent of 10 credits) (Education Code 51225.3) A pupil who before enrollment in grade nine completes a high school level course in World Languages that is aligned to the content standards adopted by the state board shall receive high school credit.

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a course in career technical education shall be aligned to the career technical 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 (equivalent of 20 credits)

(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. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

7. One semester course in health education (equivalent of 5 credits)

8. Electives: Satisfactory completion of (75) elective credits

### Exemptions and Waivers

A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, or child of a military family 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. 6173.2 – Education of Children of Military Families)

(cf. 6173.3 – Education for Juvenile Court School Students)

### Maximum Student Course Load

A thirty (30)-credit class schedule per semester is a typical student course load. The site principal or designee may approve an increase in student course load not to exceed forty-five (45) credits. The principal's decision will be final.

A ten (10)-credit class schedule is a typical summer school course load. Qualified students may take an additional five (5) credits.

### Online Learning

Correspondence instruction or online learning from a California university or college accredited for teacher training in accordance with 5 CCR 1633 (Education Code 51740-51741). These courses must be from an accredited (WASC or any other regional accrediting association or commission) university, college, or University of California approved online provider. In addition, all courses taken must also be approved by the accredited university, college, or University of California approved online provider.

A student can earn up to ~~40~~ 45 high school credits total, inclusive of Health as delineated in Course Requirements sub-section 7, through correspondence instruction or online learning while enrolled full time at a comprehensive high school. Letter grades (A, B, C, D, and F) are to be recorded at the level (AP, Honors, CP, Standard) of the course that is taken.

Parents/Guardians and students are responsible for determining the accreditation status of correspondence and online courses taken separate from CVUSD. Only accredited courses taken from accredited institutions can be applied towards graduation requirements. In addition, factors such as NCAA eligibility should be investigated and considered in advance of courses being taken if applicable.

Credits granted by Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accredited secondary schools would be accepted for full value by secondary schools in the District. The District will also grant credits earned at schools accredited with WASC affiliates throughout the United States, namely: Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, New England Association of Schools and Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Schools accredited by other accrediting associations not affiliated with WASC or non-accredited by any association will not be accepted by secondary schools in the District.

### Full Day Student

A full day student status requires a minimum of six high school classes for students in grades 9-11, and a minimum of five high school classes, including one concurrent enrollment course, for students in grade 12 at any CVUSD traditional high school. For students attending Century Academy or Conejo Valley High School, a full day program is defined as a minimum of four classes per day.  
(cf. 6146.12)

### Transfer

A senior transfer student must enter prior to the fourth quarter to graduate from a District comprehensive high school. Senior transfer students who enter during the fourth quarter may petition the Principal for permission to graduate from a District comprehensive school. The Principal's decision will be final.

Any foster youth who transfers into the district or between district high schools after completing his/her second year of high school, shall be exempted from any district-adopted coursework or graduation requirements, unless the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the youth is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of his/her fourth year of high school. This exemption does not apply to state graduation requirements for course completion.

In order to help facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families, the Superintendent or designee may waive specific course requirements for graduation if the student has satisfactorily completed similar coursework in another district. If such a waiver is not granted, then "best efforts" must be used to provide the student with alternative means to acquire the required coursework so that he/she can graduate on time.

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.

Any complaint alleging the district's failure to comply with the requirements of Education Code 51225.1 may be filed using the district's uniform complaint procedures pursuant to 5 CCR 4600-4687; see BP/AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

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

### Retroactive Diplomas

\*\*\*Note: Education Code 60851.6, as added by SB 172 (Ch. 572, Statutes of 2015), requires districts, until July 31, 2018, to grant a diploma to 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. \*\*\*

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)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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  
51225.36 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  
51410-51413 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  
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>

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