HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY

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. All students must pass the California High School Exit Exam to receive a diploma from a California school district. The prescribed course of study for students in grades 9 through 12 shall include (Education Code 51225.3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>REQUIRED CATEGORY Starting with the Class of 2008</th>
<th>UNITS REQUIRED Present</th>
<th>CA STATE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS</th>
<th>UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English (40 Units)</td>
<td>English 1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>40 Units</td>
<td>40 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English 2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English 3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English 4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (20 Units)</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30 Units</td>
<td>30 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra I requirement</td>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with 20 units completed in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>high school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (25 Units)</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20 Units</td>
<td>20 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Life Science (Biology)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science (30 Units)</td>
<td>World History/Cultures</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20 Units</td>
<td>20 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States History</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civics/Economics</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. E. (20 Units) Required</td>
<td>Core P.E./Integrated Core PE</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for 9th grade students</td>
<td>Physical Education 2**</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language/Visual</td>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20 Units of Foreign Language</td>
<td>20 Units of Foreign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts/CTE (10 units)</td>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td></td>
<td>and 10 Units of Visual and</td>
<td>Language (3 recomm.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Career Technical Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>and 10 Units of Visual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>and Performing Arts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
Approved: March 26, 2002 by the Board
Revised: September 23, 2003
Revised: March 2004 by the High School Graduation Requirements Committee
Revised: June 8, 2004
Revised: February 22, 2005
Revised: July 12, 2005
Revised: May 11, 2010
Revised: April 24, 2012
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. 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. Two 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)
   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, including American Sign Language, or career technical education (Education Code 51225.3)
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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 (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)
(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

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)

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.

(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)

Students who have completed and received a passing grade in all district required course work and who have met unit requirements but are unable to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) will receive a Visalia Unified School District Certificate of Achievement. The students in this category may receive the Certificate of Achievement during the graduation ceremony. This Certificate of Achievement does not constitute graduation from high school and is not a California diploma, which requires passage of the CAHSEE.

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)
(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)
(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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. 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)
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)

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
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
51225.3 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

Management Resources:
WEB SITES
CSBA: http://www.csba.org
University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:
http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements

Policy
adopted: March 26, 2002
revised: September 23, 2003
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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Visalia, California