

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL - ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

- I. Units - Unless parents petition the Board for a waiver (see V-A of regulations), a pupil must earn a minimum of 230 units, on the basis of five units for each semester course completed with a passing grade.
- II. Courses - Each pupil must successfully complete the following courses:
 - English - 40 units
English 9, English 10, and English 11 for 30 units, and 10 units of electives approved for English graduation credit.
 - Mathematics - 20 units, 5 units of which may be met by an approved alternative course outside the mathematics department.
 - Science - 20 units, 10 units must be in life science and, 10 units in physical science; 10 units may be met by an approved alternative course outside the science department.
 - Social Studies - 35 units -- 15 units of world history, 10 units of U.S. History, 5 units of civics, and 5 units of economics.
 - Physical Education - 20 units to be taken in grades 9 and 10 unless an academic waiver is approved for postponement -- per Policy 6113.4.
 - Health Education - 5 units
 - Visual and Performing Arts or Foreign Language - 10 units.

For the balance of the required units, a pupil may select from the school's course offerings (annually presented in the course handbook).
- III. Additional Requirements
 - Algebra I – Students shall meet or exceed the rigor of the content standards for Algebra I as adopted by the State Board of Education (EC 60605)
 - Technology Standards – Students shall demonstrate proficiency toward grade level benchmarks in the area of technology as outlined in the Board approved Pleasanton Unified School District Technology Performance Standards through demonstrated performance by the end of the grade level spans in fifth, eighth, and twelfth grades.
 - Community Service – Students shall participate in 20 hours of community service demonstrated through successful completion of course work in their civics course, or through approved alternative methods.
- IV. Proficiency toward Standards- Each pupil must demonstrate proficiency toward District and State

standards. Passage of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) shall demonstrate proficiency. Those students unable to successfully pass this exam shall be provided interventions to assist the student in meeting this requirement. Students with disabilities will be offered the option of using the State approved waiver process to demonstrate proficiency on the CAHSEE. (Standards of Competence for Pupils Enrolled in Special Education Programs Policy 5181)

All students must also demonstrate proficiency by passing the District's speech proficiency requirement.

V. Residency - Each pupil must attend high school for a period of 8 semesters, unless s/he successfully petitions the assistant superintendent-educational services for an early graduation (as outlined in the regulations). Each pupil shall take at least 6 courses (30 units) per semester, including senior year.

VI. Exemptions from Graduation Requirements

- A. Units - A pupil successfully completing a typical, 6- period-per-day high school program would accrue 240 units within 8 semesters. The Board of Trustees requires 230 units for a diploma. However, if a pupil and his/her parents feel that extenuating circumstances necessitate reduction of the number of units required of that individual prior to graduation, they may petition the assistant superintendent-educational services. A parent or guardian (or pupil over 18 years of age) may submit to the school principal a letter which includes:
1. Pupil's name
 2. Copy of pupil's transcript
 3. Outline of pupil's current and proposed future course work
 4. Reason for the request.

Such a letter of petition must be received by the principal and reviewed by a school academic council at least six months prior to the pupil's expected date of graduation. The principal shall forward the letter to the assistant superintendent-educational services with his/her recommendation.

The Board of Trustees recommends that any pupil considering application to a university or college should plan to complete a full 240 units or more during his/her high school years.

Course recommendations for college-bound pupils are available in each school's handbook and counseling department.

A pupil may challenge course pre-requisites. If s/he is able to demonstrate to the department (two or more teachers) adequate knowledge of or equivalent experience to the pre-requisite course, s/he may enroll in the more advanced course. Unit credit shall not be granted for courses waived by challenge.

The Director of Curriculum shall submit proposals to the Board regarding appropriate alternatives to required courses.

- B. Proficiency Toward Standards - The Board of Trustees has established standards in accordance with EC 51225.5. (See also Policy 6146.2 - Reciprocity of Standards of Competency/Graduation Requirements for Transfer Students.)
- C. Residency- - A pupil seeking to graduate prior to completion of 8 semesters' residency must apply in accordance with procedures outlined in Policy 6143.1A - Early Graduation. In general, pupils must have a specific plan which necessitates shortening their high school program. Course, unit and basic skills requirements still apply.

VII. Alternatives to the Comprehensive High School

- A. California State Department of Education periodically offers a Proficiency Examination which, with the consent of a pupil's parents or guardian, may be the equivalent of a diploma for a pupil over the age of 16. Each school's counseling office will announce test dates and application procedures.
- B. Amador Valley Adult Education offers eligible students the opportunity to receive an Adult Education High School Diploma. The total units necessary for receiving an Adult Education High School Diploma is 210 (230 minus 20 units of Physical Education). Adult Education also offers instruction leading to the General Educational Development (GED) test. (See Policy 6300 Adult/Community Education)
- C. The Board of Trustees has established two high school alternatives: Village High School and the Center for Independent Study. (See Policy 6172.1 - Special Schools or Classes: Continuation and Opportunity Schools and Classes, regarding the application process for these alternative programs.)

Legal Reference: EC 51215-51217, 51220-51225.5, 48400-48403, 48412-48414
CAC Title 5: 11520, 11521, 11522, 11523, 11530

Cross Reference: Policy 5181 - ADOPTED: 6-03-03, AMENDED: 2-14-06 Standards of Competence for Pupils enrolled in Special Education Programs
Policy 6113.4 - Physical Education Requirements for Exemptions
Policy 6142 - Course of Study (Independent Study)
Policy 6146.2 - Reciprocity of Standards of Competency/Graduation Requirements for Transfer Students
Policy 6143.1 - Early Graduation
Policy 6172.1 - Special Schools or Classes: Continuation & Opportunity Schools & Classes
Policy 6300 - Adult Education

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