

# Mt. Diablo USD

## Board Policy

### High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

#### Instruction

The Governing Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation in order to provide students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

(cf. 0420.3 - School-Based Student Motivation and Maintenance Program)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

(cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)

(cf. 5149 - At-Risk Students)

(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

(cf. 6146.5 - Elementary/Middle School Graduation Requirements)

In addition to the basic course of study, every student shall have passed the California High School Exit Exam as required by California state law, beginning with the class of 2006. Students, including English learners, who have not passed one or both parts of the high school exit examination by the end of grade 12 are to be provided the opportunity to receive intensive instruction and services for up to two consecutive academic years after the completion of grade 12.

#### Course Requirements

To obtain a diploma of graduation from high school, students shall complete at least the following courses in grades 9 through 12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified: (Education Code 51225.3)

1. Four courses in English

(cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)

2. ~~Three~~ Two courses in mathematics

State statute governs the minimum requirements for earning a high school diploma. A course in Algebra 1 (or its equivalent) is one of the state's requirements. All students in the class of 2005 and beyond (Education Code 51224.5), including students with disabilities must pass an Algebra 1 (or its equivalent) course that meets the content standards adopted by the State Board of Education in order to receive a high school diploma.

If any student completes coursework in grades 7 through 12 that meets or exceeds state academic content standards for algebra, those courses shall apply toward satisfying this algebra requirement. (Education Code 51224.5 and 51225.3)

#### Students with Individual Education Programs

A district or county office of education governing board or a Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) has a right to file an ED 56101 specific waiver form for individual students with the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education may grant, in whole or in part, any request pursuant to subdivision when the facts indicate that failure to do so would hinder implementation of the pupil's individualized education program.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)

3. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences

(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

5. One course in fine arts or foreign language

(cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)

6. Students are to be enrolled in physical education for two years, unless exempt in accordance with Education Code 51241. For the deferral, they must take 9th grade PE and pass the Physical Performance Test by meeting any 5 of the 6 standards.

Students may apply to have the second year of PE deferred to the 11th or 12th grade year, with the approval of the site principal. Application for a deferral must be made by April 15 of the school year along with evidence that 5 of the 6 standards on the Physical Performance Test have been successfully mastered. The 9th grade Physical Performance Test may be given to students in any grade 10 to 12 inclusive.

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

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)

Exit Exam for the Classes of 2006 and Later

As specified in state law, each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully passed the state exit examination in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation. (Education Code 60851)

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

Supplemental instruction shall be made available to any student who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in Board policy, toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code 37252, 60851)

(cf. 6176 - Weekend/Saturday Classes)  
(cf. 6177 - Summer School)  
(cf. 6179 - Supplemental Instruction)

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  
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 pupils from grade 12 and credit toward graduation  
COURT DECISIONS  
O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Preparing for the High Stakes of the High School Exit Exam: An Examination of  
Certificates of Completion, Policy Advisory, September 2005

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, California High School Exit Examination:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>

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