

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY

Graduation from the schools of this district demonstrates that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and other requirements set by the faculty, and standards of proficiency as required by law and local policies.

It is expected that the instructional staff will apply measures of achievement to provide evidence that all students have progressed far enough toward school goals and objectives to warrant graduation, according to paragraph one above. It is also expected that students will achieve at levels which compare well with other high school graduates in the state and nation.

District Competency Requirements

District competency requirements will align with state requirements, and all students must pass the state High School Exit Exam in order to receive a diploma.

No student who has completed grades nine through twelve shall receive a diploma of graduation from high school if he/she has not completed:

1. At least the following number of courses in the subjects specified, each course having a duration of one year:
 - a. Four courses in English at Nevada Union and Bear River beginning June, 2000 and thereafter, three courses in English at all alternative district sites through June 2002, thereafter four courses in English at all sites
 - b. Three courses in mathematics. Beginning with the graduating class of 2004 and thereafter, all students in grades 7-12 must have taken a course or a combination of two courses in which content meets or exceeds the rigor of the content standards for Algebra I that are adopted by the State Board of Education
 - c. Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences
 - d. Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture and geography; and American government, civics and economics
 - e. One course in visual or performing arts (the requirement could be met with one semester of each for a total of one year) or one year of a foreign language or one year of career technical education
 - f. Two courses in physical education unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code provisions

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY
(continued)

2. Other courses required by the Board:

- a. Health
- b. GSR (General State Requirements)

These requirements may be met through enrollment in one or more "stand alone" courses that cover the state-adopted standards in these curricular areas or in other courses in which these same standards are embedded.

- 3. Students must complete a final exhibition consisting of the presentation of his or her Senior Project or Graduation by Portfolio during the last semester of the senior year. (This requirement must be met by the graduating class of 1999 and all succeeding classes).
- 4. Juniors and seniors may take no more than two of the following courses (or any combination thereof) during either semester: Teaching Assistant, Peer Tutoring, School Service, or an open period (seniors only) for a maximum of 20 credits toward graduation.
- 5. The total credits required for graduation are 220. These 220 credits include all of the requirements above, plus electives. Effective with the graduating class of 2011, the total credits required for graduation at Silver Springs High School and Sierra Foothill High School shall be 200 credits, including all of the requirements set forth above, plus electives. The total credits required at all other schools in the district shall remain 220 credits.
- 6. In order to receive a diploma from a comprehensive high school (Bear River or Nevada Union), students must have been enrolled in a comprehensive high school beginning no later than the second week following the opening of school in their year of graduation. In addition, they must be continuously enrolled in a comprehensive high school program for both the fall and spring semesters during the school year in which they expect to receive a diploma.

However, on a case-by-case basis and with the written permission of the Superintendent or designee, exceptions can be made to grant a student a comprehensive school diploma when he/she has not attended his/her entire senior year at a comprehensive site.

The Board, with the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers and students, shall adopt alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study, which may include:

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY
(continued)

1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies
2. Supervised work experience or other, outside school experience
3. Interdisciplinary study
4. Independent study
5. Earned credit at a postsecondary institution

The requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to students, parents and the public.

Certificate of High School Achievement

A student is eligible to receive a "Certificate of High School Achievement" by satisfying all of the following requirements:

1. Complete all requirements for a standard diploma except for one or both of the following:
 - a. The receipt of a passing score on the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) or
 - b. Successful completion of a course or combination of two courses in which content meets or exceeds the rigor of the content standards for Algebra I that are adopted by the State Board of Education
2. Be continuously enrolled in courses in which curriculum is designed to give the student an opportunity to attain the skills and knowledge otherwise needed to pass the CAHSEE and meet the Algebra I requirement.

Review of Graduation Requirements

At a minimum of every three years, district policy related to local curriculum requirements, course content, and course sequence shall be aligned to the standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY
(continued)

Review of Academic Progress Prior to Graduation

A program shall be established and maintained to ensure that each student, upon reaching the age of sixteen or prior to the end of the tenth grade, whichever occurs first, has received a systematic review of his/her academic progress and has received counseling on the options available to the student during the final two years of high school. The program shall provide for meeting with the student, and where feasible, with the student's parent/guardian, to explain the academic progress needed for satisfactory completion of high school. The program shall give first priority to identifying students who are not earning credits at a rate which will enable them to graduate with the rest of their class and to providing these students with counseling services.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY
(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
- 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>

Policy

- adopted: December 10, 1984
- revised: January 15, 2003
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- revised: February 20, 2008
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NEVADA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Grass Valley, California