

# Novato USD

## Board Policy

### High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

#### Instruction

The Board of Education desires to prepare each student to obtain a **high school diploma** ~~of high school graduation~~, because graduation from high school provides students with opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment,

~~All high school students are required to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in order to receive a high school diploma.~~

The Board of Education strongly encourages all students to complete the high school requirements that meet the college entrance requirements for the University of California and California State University (A-G requirements).

The Superintendent shall insure that parents are properly notified of these graduation requirements and will establish procedures for students and parental counseling in instances where a student is not making timely progress toward meeting graduation requirements.

(cf. 1203.3 - 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)

#### 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 years in English

(cf. 6142.91-Reading/Language Arts)

2. Two years in mathematics

(cf. 6142.92-Mathematics Instruction)

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

(cf. 6142.93-Science Instruction)

4. Three years 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 year in visual or performing arts, ~~foreign world~~ language, Career Technical Education or American Sign Language

(cf. 6142.6-Visual and Performing Arts Education)

6. Two years in physical education (unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code 51241

(cf. 6142.7-Physical Education)

#### Additional Course Requirements Beyond State Requirements

7. One freshman ~~elective~~ course in health education (semester course). (Parents may opt out of the full course.)

8. One freshman course in (semester course) **College and Career Readiness, Get Focused...Stay Focused!**

9. One year of Career Technical Education or practical arts or visual or performing arts or foreign language

~~10. — One freshman elective course in health education (semester course). (Parents may opt out of the full course.)~~

All students in grades 9 through 12 shall complete the Novato Unified School District course of study in order to receive a diploma of graduation. (Education Code 51225.3) This course of study includes the additional Board requirements as listed for a total of 220 units.

#### State Requirements

English - ~~3~~ 4 years

Mathematics - 2 years including Algebra I

Science - 2 years

#### NUSD Board Requirements

4 years/40 credits

2 years/20 credits

\*In addition, students must meet content standards for Algebra I (Education Code 51224.5)

2 years/20 credits (including

Biological and physical sciences)

Social Science - 3 years  
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

3 years/30 credits

Visual or performing arts – 2 years of either visual or ~~foreign world~~ language or ~~& performing arts or~~ Career Technical Education ~~world foreign~~ language or American Sign Language

2 year/20 credits

~~Career Technical Education-  
or practical arts or visual or performing arts or foreign language~~

~~1 year/10 credits~~

Physical Education - 2 years  
(Unless student exempted pursuant to Education Code 5124.1)

2 years/20 credits

Required Electives:  
Health – 0 –  
(Opt out available for this course)

1/2 year/5 credits

~~Geography 0~~

~~1/2 year/5 credits~~

**Get Focused...Stay Focused**

**1/ 2 year/5 credits**

Electives

6 years/60 credits

Total- 220 Credits

(cf. 5118 - Transfers)  
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)  
(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)  
(cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)

Students in grades 9-12 shall be enrolled in at least five courses each semester or the equivalent number of courses per quarter. This requirement shall not apply to pupils enrolled in regional occupational programs, courses at accredited postsecondary educational institutions, independent study, special education programs where the student's individualized program (IEP) establishes a different number of courses, continuation education classes, approved work experience education

programs, or any other course of study authorized by the Board which is equivalent to the approved high school course of study. (Education Code 46145)

### Algebra I Content Standards

As a condition of high school graduation, each student completing grade 12 shall have successfully completed Algebra I (or its equivalent). (Education Code 51224.5)

### Community Service Requirements:

All students will complete 40 hours of approved community service learning. Students must also successfully complete all required documentation and reflective writing based upon their community service experience.

### California High School Exit Exam CAHSEE

~~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)~~

(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 offered to any student who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress" toward passing the exit examination. (Education Code 37252, 60851)~~

(cf. 6177 - Summer School)  
(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. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)  
(cf. 6164.2 - Guidance/Counseling Services)

### Certificates of Completion

~~Students who accrue the designated number of credits in the required areas of study, and meet the content standards requirement for Algebra I but do not successfully pass the English and-~~

~~math sections of the High School Exit Exam, by the end of their senior year, will receive a certificate of completion (Education Code 512245, Education Code 60851)~~

### Certificate of Attendance

Students who do not earn sufficient credits and who may or may not have met the content standards for Algebra I ~~and/or passed both subjects of the High School Exit Exam~~ shall receive a Certificate of Attendance. (Education Code 51225.3)

### 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)

In addition, the Board 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)

### 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

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, California High School Exit Examination:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs>

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