

ALTERNATIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION

In order to meet individual student needs and encourage all students to complete their high school education, the Governing Board desires to provide flexibility in the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

- (cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
- (cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
- (cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)
- (cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
- (cf. 6200 - Adult Education)

With the active involvement of parents/guardians, administrators, teachers, and students, the Board shall adopt alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study required for high school graduation. These alternative means shall be made available to students, parents/guardians, and the public. (Education Code 51225.3)

- (cf. 1220 - Citizen Advisory Committees)
- (cf. 6020 - Parent Involvement)

Students may fulfill any course requirement for graduation through the following:

1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies (Education Code 51225.3)

Opportunities to demonstrate skills and competencies shall include, but not be limited to, challenging a course through successful completion of a district-developed examination, which covers course objectives. The district shall not use results from the General Educational Development test or other state or national tests for this purpose.

- (cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)
- (cf. 6155 - Challenging Courses by Examinations)

2. Supervised work experience or other outside school experience in accordance with Education Code 51760.3 and 5 CCR 1635 (Education Code 51225.3)

- (cf. 6178.1 - Work Experience Education)

3. Career technical education classes offered in high school (Education Code 51225.3)

- (cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)

4. Courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs (Education Code 51225.3)

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(cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)

5. Interdisciplinary study (Education Code 51225.3)

6. Independent study (Education Code 51225.3)

(cf. 6158 - Independent Study)

7. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution (Education Code 48800, 51225.3)

(cf. 6172.1 - Concurrent Enrollment in College Classes)

8. Private instruction in accordance with 5 CCR 1631

9. Correspondence instruction from a California university or college accredited for teacher training in accordance with 5 CCR 1633 (Education Code 51740-51741)

10. Military service and training in accordance with 5 CCR 1634 (Education Code 51440)

11. To satisfy the district's driver education and training requirement, a program approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles which offers driver education and behind-the-wheel instruction through a driving school or licensed independent driving instructor in accordance with Vehicle Code 12814.6

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

12. For credit toward the district's physical education requirement, participation in district interscholastic athletic programs carried on wholly or partially after regular school hours (Education Code 51242)

A student shall be eligible to satisfy graduation requirements in this manner only if the interscholastic program entails a comparable amount of time and physical activity.

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)

(cf. 6145.2 - Athletic Competition)

13. For credit toward the district's foreign language requirement, foreign language studies successfully completed in a private school in accordance with 5 CCR 1632 (Education Code 51243)

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Upon receiving advance, written application by the student or his/her parent/guardian, the Superintendent or designee shall determine whether completion of the proposed alternative means would satisfy course requirements for graduation and what documentation shall be required, if any, to verify the student's successful completion. The Superintendent or designee shall make the final determination as to whether the student's completion of an alternative means is sufficient to satisfy the district's graduation requirements.

As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall determine the grade to be assigned to students for the completion of any of the above alternative means. When a grade is assigned by a private school, postsecondary institution, or other educational institution for completion of coursework, that same grade shall be awarded by the district provided that the Superintendent or designee has determined the alternative course to be substantially equivalent to a district course.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

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Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing boards
35160.1 Broad authority of school districts
48412 Certificate of proficiency
48645.5 Course credit, juvenile court schools
48800-48802 Attendance at community college; advanced education
51220 Areas of study; grades 7-12
51225.3 Requirements for graduation
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
51420-51427 General Educational Development test
51440 Veterans' education, evaluation and credit toward high school graduation
51740-51741 Authority to provide instruction by correspondence
51745-51749.3 Independent study
51760-51769.5 Work experience education
52300-52499.66 Career technical education

VEHICLE CODE

12814.6 Teen driver's act

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

1600-1635 Alternative credit
10070-10075 Work experience education
11500-11508 Regional occupational centers and programs
11520-11523 Proficiency examination and certificate
11700-11703 Independent study

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

2301-2414 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

ALTERNATIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION**Definitions**

A semester period is one period of 40 to 60 minutes of instructional time per week throughout one semester of at least 17 weeks, or a minimum of 12 clock hours of instructional time provided during the academic year or in summer school. While the content to be covered is planned within these time frames, a student may be granted one semester period of credit even though the student spends less than the aforementioned amount of time in completing the necessary work. (5 CCR 1600)

Private Instruction

A student who is regularly enrolled and in attendance at a high school shall receive credit toward high school graduation for private instruction under the following conditions: (5 CCR 1631)

1. The instruction entails fields and subjects included in the high school's courses of study and curricula.
2. The student demonstrates his/her capabilities at the beginning and at the end of the period of private instruction by examination(s) given under the school's supervision, thereby showing that he/she has made progress in learning satisfactory to the school.

Correspondence Instruction

Prior to registering for a correspondence course, the student or his/her parent/guardian shall obtain verification from the Superintendent or designee that the course is essentially equivalent to the high school curriculum and meets district graduation requirements. The number of semester credits assigned to the course shall be determined before the student begins coursework.

The district shall grant credit toward graduation for correspondence instruction if all of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 51740, 51741; 5 CCR 1633)

1. The correspondence instruction is provided by the University of California, or other university or college in California accredited for teacher training, in subjects included within or related to the student's course of study.
2. The student is, for good reason, unable to take the course of study offered in the school.
3. The Superintendent or designee determines the number of semester periods to be credited for successful completion of a particular correspondence course.

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4. No more than 40 total semester periods of correspondence instruction are credited to a student towards graduation.

Military Service and Training

Credit toward graduation shall be granted for military service and training received while in the military service of the United States, within the maximum limits established in 5 CCR 1634. A person is eligible for this credit if he/she is either: (Education Code 51440; 5 CCR 1634)

1. A former member of the Armed Forces who is a California resident and who has received an honorable discharge
2. A member of the Armed Forces who is a California resident and was a California resident on the date he/she entered the Armed Forces

The Superintendent or designee shall keep a permanent record of the credit allowed for military service or training. (5 CCR 1634)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Private Foreign Language Instruction

The district shall grant credit for foreign language studies successfully completed in a private school and shall apply the credit toward meeting any foreign language requirement prescribed for grades 9-12, provided that all of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 51243-51245; 5 CCR 1632)

1. The courses are in languages designated in Education Code 51244.
2. The student is regularly enrolled or applying to the district in grades 9-12.
3. The student or his/her parent/guardian applies in writing for the credit, specifies the private school attended and the amount and level of credit requested, and submits a transcript or other documents from the private school showing that the student successfully completed the course.
4. The amount of credit sought equals at least one semester's work.

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5. The principal or designee determines that the student's achievement is equivalent to that expected of a student of comparable ability taking the same or similar instruction in district schools. This determination shall be based upon the private school's report of a test developed by the private school in cooperation with the district or, if the private school is located outside the district, the principal or designee may use a test given by a public school or other evidence, which he/she deems appropriate.