

Policy 6146.1: High School Graduation Requirements

Status: ADOPTED

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The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma so that they can take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

Course Requirements

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete at least the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified:

Subject	Credits
English (Education Code 51225.3)	40 credits
Mathematics (Education Code 51225.3) (Integrated I and II are required for the graduation class of 2020)	30 credits
Science (Education Code 51225.3) (10 units of Life Science and 10 units of Physical Science)	20 credits
Health	5 credits
Social Science (Education Code 51225.3)	30 credits total
World History	10 credits
United States History	10 credits
American Government	5 credits
Economics	5 credits
Physical Education (Grades 9-12) (Education Code 51225.3)	20 credits
Visual or performing arts, foreign language, including American Sign Language, or career technical education (CTE) (Education Code 51225.3)	10 credits
Career Technical Education (CTE) (Education Code 51225.3)	10 credits

Electives:

North Tahoe High School (NTHS) - Modified Block Schedule	60 credits
Sierra High School/Coldstream (SHS/CSA)	35 credits
Truckee High School (THS)- Block Schedule	115 credits

Total Credits Required for Graduation

NTHS:	220 credits
SHS/CSA:	200 credits
THS:	280 credits
Community Service	30 hours

All classes must be completed with a grade of "D" or better to count toward a TTUSD high school diploma.

One year of ELD 4 may be counted toward the four-year English requirement as long as the ELD 4 course meets the following requirements and is UC approved:

1. The course must allow students to develop fluency in academic language
2. Assignments and activities require students to accomplish a variety of intellectually challenging tasks, calling on them to demonstrate, at an advanced linguistic level of competence, their ability to use a variety of writing techniques, modes of development and formal conventions.
3. College-preparatory composition and literature comparable to other mainstream college-preparatory English courses is used.
4. Students engage extensively with the reading of classic and modern literature, content-rich works of non-fiction, frequent writing, from brainstorming to final paper, and practice listening and speaking practice with different audiences.

At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I or Integrated Math I. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Algebra I or Integrated Math I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete 30 credits of mathematics courses in grades 9-12. Transfer students must receive principal approval to count Algebra, Geometry or Algebra II credits toward the math requirement. (Education Code 51224.5)

Students may be awarded up to one mathematics course credit for successful completion of an approved computer science course that is classified as a "category c" course based on the "a-g" course requirements for college admission. (Education Code 51225.3, 51225.35)

To be counted towards meeting graduation requirements, a CTE course shall be aligned to the CTE model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education.

Health Instruction covering alcohol and other chemical abuse prevention, sex education, sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, and youth suicide prevention. This course content may be embedded into the P.E. curriculum or covered in a course.

Community Service demonstrates civic responsibility, enhanced awareness of career opportunities and an understanding of the relevance of high school curriculum to the real world. The community service should be targeted toward potential career pathways when possible, or 30 hours of an unpaid, non-credit earning internship; or a combination of the two. Paid internship will not count towards community service hours (For the classes of 2014-2016 this requirement will be prorated using the chart below. Students will be required to complete the total number of hours beginning with their grade status in 2013-14. For example, a 2013-14 11th grader will only need to complete 16 hours)

1. 9th grade: 6 hours
2. 10th grade: 8 hours
3. 11th grade: 8 hours
4. 12th grade: 8 hours

New students who enroll from out of the district will be required to meet only the hours suggested for the grade(s) they need to complete (see the chart above).

Repeat Courses:

The successful completion of each class with a grade of "D" or better per semester earns the student five units. (Note that under the Block schedule, a semester course is completed in 9 weeks.)

Students may repeat only courses previously recorded as D and F on their transcript. All courses and grades will remain on transcripts. The better grade will be used to calculate GPA and required credits, whereas the lower grade will be excluded from GPA and required credits. In addition, an official Petition to Repeat a Course must be completed with principal, parent and student signatures prior to enrollment in that course.

Additional requirements:

1. Students who are transferring into Tahoe Truckee Unified School District from another public or private school must provide a certified copy of their transcript with final grades, to have it transferred to the TTUSD transcript.
2. Students wishing to take a course outside the district must have prior approval of the site principal. Without this approval, a completed course may not be added to the transcript.
3. Any student who wishes to take a course outside the district and have that counted for their graduation and GPA calculation, must select a school that has the course approved on the A-G list on UC doorways.

4. If a student attends a community college or a four-year university, that course will be added to the TTUSD high school transcript after an official transcript with the final grade is submitted to the school.
5. Students who transfer into the district and are not on the Integrated Math Course of Studies, may choose to complete their course at Cold Stream Alternative School or a principal approved alternative.
6. Principals will not audit courses for any other institution.

Middle School Credits

Courses completed at the middle school cannot be counted toward the high school GPA or toward high school graduation credits. If the student passes the middle school course (for example, Integrated II or Spanish II), the student will be allowed to move to the next level of the course in high school.

Alternative methods of earning credits toward high school graduation:

1. Correspondence/Independent Study Programs: Students may earn credits from accredited high school correspondence/independent study programs provided the institution and its courses are listed as currently being A-G approved on UC Doorways. Prior approval of Principal is required.
2. College Courses: Students may earn high school credits by passing college courses while still in high school. An "extra" grade point for high school GPA calculation will only be used for courses that are transferable to the University of California system. Prior approval of Principal is required.

To be "concurrently" enrolled in a college course a student must be a full-time student in his/her high school program. Students may become eligible for completing alternative credits toward graduation by being enrolled for at least 50% of the school day at one district high school. Correspondence or college courses cannot be used to calculate full time high school attendance.

3. A maximum of forty (40) credits may be added toward graduation requirements in work experience. A maximum of twenty (20) credits may be added toward graduation requirements in aide-type classes (office, teacher, library, etc.). Only juniors and seniors may be aide.
4. Credit may be added toward graduation requirements when received in summer school.

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.

Exemptions from District-Adopted Graduation Requirements

District students are required to complete graduation course requirements specified above, including the requirements imposed by Education Code 51225.3 and those adopted by the Board. However, a foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, or migrant student who transfers into the district or between district schools any time after completing the second year of high school, or a newly arrived immigrant student who is in the third

or fourth year of high school and is participating in a newcomer program, shall be exempted from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption shall not apply if the Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer, or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall notify any eligible student of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. (Education Code 51225.1)

Retroactive Diplomas

Any student who completed grade 12 in the 2003-04 through 2014-15 school year and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination shall be granted a high school diploma. (Education Code 51413)

In addition, the district may retroactively grant high school diplomas to : (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

1. Persons who departed California against their will while in grade 12 and did not receive a diploma because the departure interrupted their education, provided that they were in good academic standing at the time of the departure

Persons may be considered to have departed California against their will if they were in custody of a government agency and were transferred to another state, were subject to a lawful order from a court or government agency that authorized their removal from California, were subject to a lawful order and were permitted to depart California before being removed from California pursuant to the lawful order, were removed or were permitted to depart voluntarily pursuant to the federal Immigration and Nationality Act, or departed due to other circumstances determined by the district that are consistent with the purposes of Education Code 48204.4.

In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent Chief Learning Officer or designee shall consider any coursework that may have been completed outside of the United States or through online or virtual courses.

2. Former students who were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who are honorably discharged veterans of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that they were enrolled in a district school immediately preceding the internment or military service and did not receive a diploma because their education was interrupted due to the internment or military service in those wars

Deceased former students who satisfy these conditions may be granted a retroactive diploma to be received by their next of kin.

3. Veterans who entered the military service of the United States while in grade 12 and who had satisfactorily completed the first half of the work required for grade 12 in a district school

Migratory Students

1. **A migratory student may but is not required to be provided with programs for online instruction as a substitute for physical attendance and to delete material related to family literacy services, as the funding and legal basis no longer exist.**

2. To provide that for summer school programs, the number of instructional days may be decreased if there are holidays for which schools are required to be closed, that districts are required to make facilities available at no cost to other agencies that request facilities for the operation of migrant summer school program unless just cause for denial exists, and that districts who receive authorization and funding from CDE to provide an extended school year program to migratory students who, due to family movement, enroll in transitional kindergarten, kindergarten, or any of grades 1-6, on or after March 1 of the school year and depart on or before December 1 of the next school year, are required to operate such program by law.
3. Add material related to requirements regarding the transfer of coursework and credits, exemptions from district-established graduation requirements, and the option to remain in school to complete district-established or statewide course requirements.

Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to: (Education Code 51225.5)

1. An international exchange student who has not completed the course of study ordinarily required for graduation and who is returning to the home country following the completion of one academic school year in the district.
2. A student who is terminally ill

The honorary diploma shall be clearly distinguishable from the regular diploma of graduation awarded by the district. (Education Code 51225.5)