



Santa Ana Unified School District

BOARD POLICY NO: 6146.1

EFFECTIVE: 02/14/2023

SUBJECT: Graduation Requirements-Senior High School

CATEGORY: Students

RESPONSIBLE OFFICE(S): School Performance and Culture

SCOPE:

The Board of Education desires to prepare all students to obtain a high school diploma to enable them to take advantage of opportunities for postsecondary education and/or employment.

POLICY:

Credit Requirements

Minimum academic standards for graduation from senior high school in the Santa Ana Unified School District beginning with the Class of 2009 are as follows:

- Satisfactory completion of a minimum of two hundred and twenty (220) semester periods of credit.
- Semester credit and the time or content equivalency mean:
 - One period of forty (40) to sixty (60) minutes of instructional time per week throughout one semester or no less than seventeen (17) weeks is the equivalent of one semester credit.
 - A minimum of twelve (12) clock hours of instructional time provided during the academic year or in a summer school is the equivalent of one semester credit.

In certain cases, with prior approval of the principal, credit may be assigned when equivalent learning is achieved through individualized instructional programs except in subjects for which a minimum of instructional time is specified by law.

Course Requirements

All courses required for high school graduation shall be aligned to District and State standards, where applicable.

To obtain a high school diploma, students shall complete the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified. Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) has aligned the high school graduation requirements to meet A-G eligibility requirements, including validations rules specified by the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) systems.

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|----------------|---|
| 1. English | 4 years (40 credits) which can include UC approved courses and classes taken in a foreign country. (Education Code 51225.3) |
| 2. Mathematics | 3 years (30 credits) including Algebra I and Geometry. Completion of such coursework prior to grade 9 shall satisfy the Algebra I or Mathematics I requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the |



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requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12. (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)

Validation rules apply, as specified by the CSU and UC systems.

3. Science 2 years (20 credits) including one course of Biology/Life Science and one course of Physical Science.

4. Social Science 3 years (30 credits) including World History, Culture and Geography (10 credits); U.S. History and Geography (10 credits); Principles of American Democracy (5 credits); and Principles of Economics (5 credits).

5. World Languages or Language Other Than English (LOTE) 2 years (20 credits) in the same language. Courses in languages other than English taken in seventh and eighth grades may be used to fulfill part of the requirement.

Validation rules apply, as specified by the CSU and UC systems.

6. Visual and Performing Arts 1 year (10 credits) in year-long sequence in a single area (dance, drama/theater, music, or visual arts) requiring the first semester as a prerequisite.

7. College and Career Planning/Technology Student Skills/College and Career Planning to be included in the intermediate and high school curriculum.

Technology Technology shall be integrated throughout the intermediate and high school curriculum. Technology requirements shall be met through a District approved demonstration of technological competence.

8. Physical Education 2 years (20 credits) unless the student has been exempted. (Education Code 51225.3)

9. Ethnic Studies 1 year (10 credits) beginning with the Class of 2026, one year-long course of Ethnic Studies. (Education Code 51225.3)



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The Ethnic Studies requirement can be fulfilled through the successful completion of a qualifying course that meets the District's Ethnic Studies specifications. (Education Code 51226.7)

10. Financial Aid

Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA) is required for high school graduation. The parent or legal guardian of the pupil, or the pupil if the pupil is a legally emancipated minor or 18 years of age or older, may opt out of the requirements by completing and submitting an opt-out form. (Education Code 51225.7)

A foster youth, homeless student, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program who transfers into the District any time after completing the second year of high school shall be required to complete all graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional District-adopted graduation requirements, unless the Superintendent 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, any such student shall be notified 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.



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In determining whether to award a diploma under these circumstances, the Superintendent 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 his/her next of kin. (Education Code 51430)
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.

Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant honorary high school diplomas to:

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)

DESIRED OUTCOME:

This revised Board policy ensures that students meet the requirements for a high school diploma and graduate from the Santa Ana Unified School District ready for post-secondary education and/or employment.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

EDUCATION CODE

48204.4	Parents/guardians departing California against their will
51224.5	Algebra instruction
51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements
51225.3	High school graduation
51225.5	Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students
51225.7	Free Application for Federal Student Aid or California Dream Act



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51226.7 Model curriculum in Ethnic Studies

51410-51412 Diplomas

51430 Retroactive high school diplomas

51440 Retroactive high school diplomas

ADOPTION AND REVISION HISTORY:

Adopted: (10-00 02-09 08-15) 02-23

Santa Ana, CA