

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board of Education is dedicated to the concept that each student's educational progress and qualifications for graduation be judged on his/her competency and capacity to learn and make reasonable progress in designated skill and knowledge areas. In addition, successful completion of course and course unit equivalents and length of time for instruction will be required.

Graduation will be authorized by the Board and a diploma will be granted to all students who have ~~completed the required~~ ~~aequired~~ ~~230~~ units of credit from the adopted Course of Study during grades 9-12, and met all other specific graduation requirements listed below.

### Subject/Credits/Specific Requirements

~~Graduation Requirements for Comprehensive, Early College and Monte Vista High Schools are the~~ 230 units of credit ~~and~~ shall include the following:

#### English                      40 Credits

1. Must be enrolled in a content-standards based English course every semester of high school attendance.
2. A maximum of 30 credits may be earned by passing English Language Development (ELD) courses.
3. 10 of the 40 credits must be satisfied by passing Composition-Literature 4AB or equivalent.

#### Math                              20 Credits

1. Successful completion of ~~Algebra or equivalent Math 1 (Algebra content)~~ is required for graduation from high school.
2. Passing Algebra prior to high school attendance fulfills the Algebra ~~Math 1 (Algebra content)~~ requirement but no high school credit will be granted.

#### Applied Skills                      5 Credits

1. Applied skills includes any course that is part of a Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway, an occupation related course, ROP courses, or a third year of higher level Science or Math with 10 credits minimum.

#### Science                              20 Credits

1. 10 credits in Life Science, and
2. 10 credits in Physical Science

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)**

Humanities 10 Credits

World Languages,

Visual or Performing Arts

1. World Languages,
2. American Sign Language,
3. Communication Skills/Speech,
4. Visual or Performing Arts.

Social Studies 30 Credits

1. One year of World History or European History;
2. One year of United States History;
3. One semester of American Democracy and one semester of Economics

Health Education 5 Credits

1. Includes all State requirements.

Physical Education 20 Credits

1. Must be enrolled in physical education in the first two semesters of high school.
2. The remaining two semesters may be taken at any time during grades 10, 11, or 12.

Electives 80 Credits

1. Additional courses taken in required areas beyond the required credits will automatically be counted as electives.

**Graduation Requirements for Continuation High School effective for the 2021/22 School Year are 190 units of credit and shall include the following:**

**1. General Conditions**

The Board shall grant a diploma of continuation high school graduation to any pupil upon completion of the adopted course of study including satisfactory completion of a minimum of 190 credits of classroom instruction and supervised learning. Students at the continuation high school will receive five units of credit upon the successful completion of course and course unit equivalents per quarter.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)2. **Basic Requirements**

- a. The specific subject requirements for a continuation high school diploma are identical to those required of the traditional high school with the exception of a reduced required elective credit of 40 total.
- b. Students wishing to receive a continuation high school diploma must successfully complete a minimum of five credits at the continuation high school.

Experiential Learning Project:

Effective 2017-18, with the entering freshman class, the Experiential Learning Project (ELP) will culminate in the senior year and offer the students an opportunity to explore an area of passion or interest that connects their learning to experiences outside of the classroom. The ELP may begin at any time in a student's high school career, but must be completed in their senior year. Each student shall have an approved advisor/mentor who will guide students through their experiential project journey. The advisor/mentor could be a counselor, teacher, classified employee, administrator or a person mutually agreed to by the student and the school. All mentors will be required to comply with the District's volunteer process.

## Project Requirements:

1. Students will complete a minimum of 20 "ELP hours" by their senior year. This will be agreed to by the student and their advisor/~~mentor, counselor or designated instructor~~ and will demonstrate learning connected to the student's college and/or career goals, their coursework and/or the Demonstration/Performance Requirement. (See requirements ~~7~~, 8, 9, 10)
2. **ELP hours may transfer from one district high school to another district high school.**
3. **Each school will record the ELP hours completed by each of their students as part of the student's coursework and/or the Demonstration/Performance Requirement. (See requirements 8, 9, 10)**
4. Work should be completed outside the school day. Students may use compensated work (such as a part-time job) for the Demonstration/Performance Requirement with prior approval of their advisor/~~mentor, counselor or designated instructor~~. (See requirements ~~7~~, 8, 9, 10) With special permission and under certain circumstance, students may do experiential learning during the school day and on a school campus.
5. Work to help family members or other relatives will require approval by **advisor/mentor** ~~school's administration or designee~~ to qualify for the Demonstration/Performance Requirement.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

6. The parent of each student must complete a district approval/liability waiver form.
7. Students may receive credit for services they are already performing for non-profit agencies with ~~advisor/mentor site principal or designee~~ approval.
8. The ELP will culminate in a project, demonstration or exhibition, inclusive of the following elements:
  - a. A written assignment correlated with the project, demonstration or exhibition.
  - b. An oral presentation focusing on the project, demonstration or exhibition.
9. Each school will establish and publish specific parameters consistent with Board policy and administrative regulations for the ELP. The school site parameters for the completion of the project will be governed by site specific, District and Board approved rubrics.
10. Each school shall develop procedures for the approval of project activities. Project activities may include, but are not limited to, service-based learning, internships, applicable work experience, and ROP coursework.

Alternate Ways to Meet Graduation Requirements

1. Alternate ways to meet ~~the units of credit for~~ graduation requirements will be accepted if the course of study includes the State subject content standards and has been adopted by the Board of Education.
2. Requests to meet graduation requirements through alternative course work must be approved in advance.

**Total Credits = 230**

~~The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth, homeless students or children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.3 and 49701.~~

**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~~

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (continued)

graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. This exemption shall not apply if 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 or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent 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)

*(cf. 6173 – Education for Homeless Children)*  
*(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)*  
*(cf. 6173.2 - Education for Children of Military Families)*

*Legal References (see next page)*

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (continued)***Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE47612 Enrollment in charter school48200 Compulsory attendance48412 Certificate of proficiency48204.4 Evidence of residency for school enrollment48430 Continuation education schools and classes48645.5 Acceptance of coursework48980 Required notification at beginning of term49701 Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children51224 Skills and knowledge required for adult life51224.5 Algebra instruction51225.1 Exemption from district graduation requirements51225.2 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course51225.3 High school graduation51225.35 Mathematics course requirements; computer science51225.36 Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students51228 Graduation requirements51230 Credit for community emergency response training51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents51410-51412 Diplomas51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma51745 Independent study restrictions56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education60851.5 Suspension of high school exit examination60851.6 Retroactive diploma; completion of all graduation requirements except high school exit examination66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria67386 Student safety; affirmative consent standardCODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 51600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduationCOURT DECISIONSO'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452*Management Resources:*WEB SITESCSBA: <http://www.csba.org>California Department of Education, California High School Exit Examination:<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gc/hs>

University of California, List of Approved a-g Courses:

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/freshman/requirements>

AASA The School Superintendents Association -

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/MOaF8AO8cslshSlfGcI3OQoEQ==>

Policy

adopted: ~~July 5, 2017~~; revised July 13, 2021**NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Costa Mesa, California