

Adopted by the Board of Education, with amendments to the Policy, at its Regular Meeting of June 8, 2010

Superintendent's Proposal

Regular Board Meeting of May 11, 2010

105-11Sp2 - ADOPTION OF REVISED BOARD POLICY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

REQUESTED ACTION:

That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District Adopts a Revised Board Policy for High School Graduation Requirements. The Revised Policy requires students to complete A-G requirements beginning with the class of 2014, and outlines exceptions to the A-G requirement. The Policy also describes the requirement for students to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), and outlines the Alternatives to the High School Diploma. This Revised Policy replaces existing Board Policies P6105.2, 6105.3, and 6105.4.

BACKGROUND:

- **The Board of Education adopted policy on May 26, 2009 to include the A-G course sequence in the graduation requirements for all students beginning with the graduating class of 2014. The Board of Education remains committed to the promotion of a college going culture by providing access to a rigorous curriculum for all students in SFUSD.** The Policy has also been updated to comply with revisions to the California Education Code related to foster youth graduation requirements and the CAHSEE requirement for students with disabilities.

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Please Note:

- **Taken up by the Curriculum and Program Committee on 5/3/10. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation by general consent of the Committee. First Reading will take place on May 11, 2010.**
- **Adopted, with the policy amended, on 6/8/10.**

5/11/10

5/25/10

6/8/10

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY (Adopted 6/8/10)

ARTICLE 6: INSTRUCTION

P 6105.2

SECTION: HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (105-11Sp2)

In order to obtain a high school diploma, a student must complete the credits and courses required by the San Francisco Unified School District, and must pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

The credit and course requirements for SFUSD students are described in Section A below. There are three credit and course plans described in Section A. These include: Plan A (All Students); Plan E (Foreign Born Students Age 15 Or Older Without Accessible Records); Plan F (Foster Students Transferring to District in Grades 11 or 12).

Section B below describes the requirement to pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). Section C below describes the Alternatives to the High School Diploma.

SECTION A: CREDIT AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete a minimum of the following numbers of courses in the subjects specified, each course having duration of one year, unless otherwise specified. These credits may be achieved through traditional classes or alternative means such as dual enrollment in a community college, approved on line courses, summer school, adult education, approved work experience, proficiency tests, and other SFUSD or accredited institutions. The requirements to obtain credit through these alternative means shall be outlined in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

Commencing with Fall 2010's incoming 9th grade class, the graduating class of 2014, the prescribed course of study for students shall include the following:

Plan A: All Students

COURSES	SEMESTERS	NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED
a. History/Social Science (including US History, World History and American Government/Economics)	6	30
b. College Preparatory English (courses approved by the University of California Office of the President, which prepare students to take college level courses)	8	40
c. Mathematics (including Algebra, Geometry, and intermediate Algebra)	6	30

d. Laboratory Science (one year each from biological and physical sciences. A third year of science is recommended by UC. Please consult with your counselor for the current requirements of the University of California and California State Universities and the current list of UC-D accepted courses)	4	20
e. World Languages (Two years of the same language other than English required.) * See additional notes at the end of Section A.	4	20
f. Visual and Performing Arts (Dance, Drama/Theater, Music or Visual Art)	2	10
Physical Education * See additional notes at the end of this Section.	4	20
Health Education	1	5
College & Career Course	1	5
g. Electives (Advanced one year courses in Math, Arts, English, Lab Sciences, Foreign Language, Social Sciences, Ethnic Studies, or other course. At least 2 semesters or 10 credits of electives must be a-g approved courses as required by the University of California and California State University System.)	10	50
Total Credits Required		230

Students with disabilities intending to earn a regular high school diploma must complete the District's credit and course requirements. Students with disabilities may receive accommodations and/or modifications in these required courses, as specified in the IEP or 504 Plan.

PLAN E – FOREIGN BORN STUDENTS 15 OR OLDER WITH NO ACCESSIBLE RECORDS

Foreign born students who enter the District without accessible records and who are at least 15 years of age by December 2nd of their entering year will be placed in the 10th grade.¹ Students in this category may obtain a diploma by meeting the following course and credit requirements:

Category Description	Semesters	Credits
a. History/Social Science (including US History, World History and American Government/Economics)	6	30
b. English (3 years)	6	30
c. Mathematics (including Algebra, Geometry, and intermediate Algebra)	6	30
d. Laboratory Science (one	4	20

¹ Students who are 14 by December 2nd of their entering year will be placed in 9th grade, and will be required to meet Plan A graduation requirements. Students with less than 8 years of schooling will be placed in the 9th grade.

year each from biological and physical sciences. A third year of science is recommended by UC. Please consult with your counselor for the current requirements of the University of California and California State Universities.)		
e. World Languages (Two years of the same language other than English required.) * See additional notes at the end of Section A.	4	20
f. Visual and Performing Arts (Dance, Drama/Theater, Music or Visual Art)	2	10
Physical Education* See additional notes at the end of Section A.	4	20
Health Education	1	5
College & Career Course	1	5
g. Electives (Advanced one year courses in Math, Arts, English, Lab Sciences, Foreign Language, Social Sciences, Ethnic Studies, or other course. At least 2 semesters or 10 credits of electives must be a-g approved courses as required by the University of California and California State University System.)	4	10
TOTAL		180

Requirement to Sign a Waiver: In order to utilize Plan E, the eligible student and the parent/guardian must sign a written waiver to acknowledge that Plan E does not satisfy A-G requirements, and may affect the pupil's ability to gain admission to a post secondary institution. The student shall also receive information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges. The counseling and waiver process for utilizing Plan E shall be further outlined in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

Plan F – Foster Care Students Transferring into District in Grades 11 or 12

Foster Care students that transfer into the district in grades 11 or 12 from another school district or between high schools within the district are not required to complete courses beyond state requirements, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for foster care benefits pursuant to state law.

COURSES	SEMESTERS	NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED
a. History/Social Studies (3 years including U.S. History, World History, and American Government/Economics)	6	30
b. English (3 years)	6	30
c. Mathematics (2 years including Algebra 1)	4	20
d. Science (2 years including biological and physical sciences)	4	20
e. Visual and Performing Arts or World Language* (1 year) See notes at end of Section A	2	10
f. Physical Education* (2 years) See additional notes at end of Section A	4	20
Total Credits Required		130

Requirement to Sign a Waiver: In order to utilize Plan F, an eligible student (and, as appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil) must sign a written waiver to acknowledge that Plan F does not satisfy A-G requirements, and may affect the pupil's ability to gain admission to a post secondary institution. The student shall also receive information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges. The counseling and waiver process for utilizing Plan F shall be further outlined in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

World Languages

- An approved course in American Sign Language shall be deemed as meeting this requirement.
- Students studying a World Language in a private school at the same time they are enrolled in a district high school may qualify to receive high school course credit for their instruction. Up to 20 credits, at a maximum of 10 credits per year, will be granted to

students who meet the criteria listed in the Administrative Regulation regarding alternative means for meeting credit and course requirements.

- English Learner (EL) students who can demonstrate proficiency in their primary language that is equal to or exceeding what is expected of students after two years of classroom World Language study may be exempted from the World Language requirement. The purpose of this exemption is to provide secondary EL students the opportunity to take additional ELD courses and to give recognition to the primary language skills that they have already acquired. In no way is the intent of the exemption to discourage English Learner students from taking World Language courses. All students planning to attend college should investigate the foreign language requirement.

Physical Education

- Students must pass 5 of 6 sections of the Fitnessgram by the end of 10th grade to be eligible for a 2 year waiver in Physical Education. Students who fail to pass the Fitnessgram by the end of 10th grade will be required to re-enroll in PE until s/he passes the Fitnessgram. Failure to pass the Fitnessgram is not grounds for withholding a diploma.
- Swimming proficiency test: It is recommended that each student pass the SFUSD Swimming Proficiency test.

SECTION B: CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAM (CAHSEE)

Students must successfully pass CAHSEE to receive a high school diploma. Students must earn a scale score of 350 or higher on each part of the CAHSEE (English/Language Arts and Mathematics) in order to pass the exam.

The CAHSEE will be administered at the school site during regular school hours. As required by state law, Grade 10 students may take the CAHSEE only during the Spring administration. Grade 10 students who do not pass the exam will have several opportunities in grades 11 and 12 to retake the part(s) not passed.

Permissible testing variations for students shall be described in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

1. English Learners (EL)

EL students are to receive at least six months of instruction in reading, writing and comprehension in English within their first 24 calendar months of enrollment in the California public school system. During this period, LEP students shall take the CAHSEE in order to maximize their opportunities to take and pass the examination. EL students must pass the CAHSEE in English in order to obtain a diploma.

Permissible testing variations for EL students shall be described in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

2. Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are required to take the CAHSEE in grade 10 as part of the census administration for compliance with No Child Left Behind. Students with disabilities intending to earn a regular high school diploma must meet the CAHSEE

requirement and complete all state and district graduation requirements, as specified above. For students with disabilities, the CAHSEE requirement can be met in the following ways:

1. Take the exam without accommodations or modifications and earn a score of 350 or more.
2. Take the exam with accommodations pursuant to the student's IEP or 504 plan and earn a score of 350 or more.
3. Take the exam with modifications pursuant to the student's IEP or 504 plan, earn a score of 350 or more, and be granted a waiver of the requirement to pass the CAHSEE by the Board of Education. (See "Waiver for Students with Disabilities," below.)

In the alternative, students with disabilities who meet the relevant eligibility criteria will not be required to pass the CAHSEE as a condition of receiving a high school diploma of graduation or of graduation from high school. (See "Exemption for Students with Disabilities," below.)

(i) Exemption for Students with Disabilities

The district shall not require a student with a disability to pass the CAHSEE as a condition of receiving a high school diploma of graduation or of graduation from high school if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

1. The student has an IEP or Section 504 plan in place. *(It is prohibited by law to adopt an IEP or 504 Plan for the sole purpose of exempting the student from the high school exit exam requirement. A student who reaches 19 years of age and has not already been found to be eligible for special education services may not be found to be a student with a disability for purposes of developing an IEP.)*
2. The IEP or 504 plan states that the student is scheduled to receive a high school diploma, and that the student has satisfied or will satisfy all other state and district graduation requirements for the receipt of a high school diploma on or after July 1, 2009.

Note: This exemption is provided pursuant to Education Code Section 60852.3, and shall last until the state board makes a determination that the alternative means by which an eligible pupil with disabilities may demonstrate the same level of academic achievement in the portions of, or those content standards required for passage of, the high school exit examination are not feasible or that the alternative means are implemented.

(ii) Waiver for Students with Disabilities

When a student with disabilities has taken any section of the exit exam with one or more modifications and has received the equivalent of a passing score, his/her parent/guardian may request that the student receive a waiver of the requirement to successfully pass the exam. Upon receipt of such request, the principal shall submit a request for a waiver to

the Governing Board. The Board may waive the requirement to successfully pass the exit exam if the principal certifies that the student has all of the following: (Education Code 60851)

1. An IEP or Section 504 plan in place that requires the accommodations or modifications to be provided to the student when taking the exit exam
2. Sufficient high school level coursework either satisfactorily completed or in progress in the high school level curriculum sufficient to have attained the skills and knowledge otherwise needed to pass the exit exam
3. An individual score report showing that the student has received the equivalent of a passing score on the exit exam while using a modification that fundamentally alters what the exam measures as determined by the State Board of Education

Permissible accommodations/modifications for special education students shall be described in an Administrative Regulation approved by the Superintendent.

SECTION C: ALTERNATIVES TO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Certificate of Completion: Students who have passed all of the District's course and credit requirements by the end of their senior year but are unable to pass the CAHSEE may receive a Certificate of Completion from the District if they have taken advantage of the supplemental interventions offered at their school site to pass the CAHSEE, and have taken the February CAHSEE. This certificate will acknowledge the student's completion of SFUSD credit and course requirements, but is not the equivalent of a high school diploma. In order to receive such a certificate, the student and parent/guardian must sign an acknowledgment that the Certificate of Completion is not a high school diploma, and is not the equivalent of a high school diploma. The acknowledgment shall also inform students and parents of the options available to obtain a diploma or a diploma equivalent. Students receiving a Certificate of Completion will be able to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Document of Educational Achievement. Instead of a high school diploma, a student with disabilities may be awarded a document of educational achievement if the student has met one of the following requirements: (i) satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the governing board of the District in which the student attended school or the District with jurisdiction over the student as identified in his/her IEP, (ii) satisfactorily met his/her goals and objectives during high school as identified in his/her IEP, (iii) satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.

A student who obtains a Document of Educational Achievement shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a graduating student of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate. The right to participate in graduation ceremonies does not equate a document of educational achievement with a high school diploma.

This High School Graduation Requirements Policy replaces existing Board Policies P6105.2, P6105.3, and P6105.4.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

Education Code Section	51225.3
Education Code Section	56026(c)(4)
Education Code Section	56390-92
Education Code Section	60850
Education Code Section	60852
Education Code Section	60852.3

History/Authorization

Adopted: Resolution 105-11Sp2 (First Reading - May 11, 2010)
(Second Reading – June 8, 2010)

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