

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The Governing Board desires to prepare all students to successfully complete the high school course of study and obtain a diploma that represents their educational achievement and increases their opportunities for postsecondary education and employment.

- (cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*
- (cf. 5147 - Dropout Prevention)*
- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*
- (cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)*
- (cf. 6146.3 - Reciprocity of Academic Credit)*

Students shall earn a minimum of two hundred twenty (220) semester credits and complete at least the following courses in grades 9-12, with each course being one year unless otherwise specified. Fifth Year Seniors, or those who have earned fewer than 120 units at the beginning of the senior year, may earn the Alternative Diploma for High School from the continuation high school. (170 credits/Rose City High School):

Beginning with the Class of 2019, students will have options to earn additional diplomas to celebrate student achievement in high school academics. In addition to the Classic Diploma (which is the PUSD High School Diploma), students may also earn specific diplomas in Math and Science, Humanities, College and Careers, and Global Education. This additional achievement will be indicated by an official seal on the Classic Diploma. (See attached Exhibit of diploma options.)

Course Requirements for a PUSD High School Diploma (referred to as the Classic Diploma)

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

Subject		Units
English	(4 years)	40
Mathematics	(3 years)	30

(Including Integrated Math I and II)
(Integrated Math III recommended For Third Year UC Admissions)

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At least one mathematics course, or a combination of the two mathematics courses required for completion in grades 9-12, shall meet or exceed state academic content standards for Algebra I/Integrated Math 1 and Geometry/Integrated Math 2. (Education Code 51224.5) Students who complete Math 2 in middle school must still take three math courses in high school.

Students will be encouraged to participate in the following Science sequence in PUSD: Physics, Chemistry, and Biology*

Science	(3 years)	30
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includes Biological and Physical Science and one Science Elective

Social studies	(3 years)	30
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World History culture and geography (10th)
 United States History and Geography (11th)
 American Government and Civics (12th) (one-semester)
 Economics (12th) (one-semester)

Visual or Performing Arts	(2 semesters)	10
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World Language or American Sign Language	(2 semesters)	10
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Physical Education	(2 years)	20
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(Unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code 51225.3 provisions) (See BP 6146.5)

Electives	To complete	220
	credits	

Beginning with the Class of 2021, students will also be required to complete the following requirements:

CTE (Career Technical Education)	(1 semester)	5
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Beginning with the Class of 2019, students will also be required to complete the following requirements:

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40 hours of Community Service or Work-Based Learning

Completion of a Senior Defense Portfolio

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)

- (cf. 6142.91 - Reading/Language Arts Instruction)*
- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*
- (cf. 6142.92 - Mathematics Instruction)*
- (cf. 6142.93 - Science Instruction)*
- (cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)*
- (cf. 6142.94 - History-Social Science Instruction)*
- (cf. 6142.2 - World/Foreign Language Instruction)*
- (cf. 6142.6 - Visual and Performing Arts Education)*
- (cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education)*
- (cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)*
- (cf. 6178.2 - Regional Occupational Center/Program)*

Course Requirements for Alternative Diploma

In 2014, the Board approved the Alternate Diploma option. In order to qualify for this diploma, the student must be enrolled at Rose City High School before the start of the second semester of their senior year. To obtain an Alternate Diploma, students must earn 170 credits and successfully complete the courses specified below:

English	(4 years)	40
Mathematics (including Integrated Math 1)	(2 years)	20
Science (includes Biological and Physical Science)	(2 years)	20
Social studies	(3 years)	30
World History culture and geography		

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(10 th) United States History and Geography (11 th) American Government and Civics (12 th) (one- semester) Economics (12 th) (one-semester)	
Visual or Performing Arts or (2 semesters) World Language or American Sign Language or Career Technical Education (CTE)	10
Physical Education (2 years) (Unless the student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code provisions 51225.3)	20
Electives	To complete 170 credits

Starting in 2021, students must also have completed:

CTE (1 semester) (Career Technical Education)	5
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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. (Education Code 51225.3)

Other options to fulfill the five (5) credit requirement for *Career Technical Education* (CTE) are:

- a) Complete an International Baccalaureate course
- b) Complete a compensated internship or industry certification and provide proof of proficiency either through on-line soft-skills course or official industry certificate
- c) Complete Financial Literacy course through Acellus
- d) Complete third year of language
- e) Complete advanced art or music course (courses that incorporate professional arts practices, such as Advanced Band, Dance Production, AP Studio Art)

Additional Requirements

To earn the Alternative Diploma from Rose City High School, students must complete 60 hours of Work Based Learning (WBL). These hours will

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not be part of the hours that a student is required to complete in another course. The activities for WBL include, but are not limited to, the following:

Community Service

- Attending seminars with Guest Speakers
- Field Experience which includes both paid or unpaid work
- Job shadow
- Unpaid Internship
- Paid Internship
- Technical Guidance

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.

(cf. 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Toward Graduation)

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

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 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)

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If the district finds that the eligible student cannot complete either the district's graduation requirements or the statewide required coursework in 4 years, the district will extend the exemption to the student's 5th year of high school and will give the student the opportunity to complete the statewide coursework required for graduation pursuant to Section 51225.3, which opportunity may include, but is not limited to, completion of the coursework through a fifth year of instruction, credit recovery, or other opportunity to complete the required coursework.

In addition, students who were in their 3rd or 4th year of high school in the 2020-21 school year and are not on track to graduate in four years are exempt from any graduation requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to statewide course requirements. These students will be afforded the opportunity to complete the statewide coursework required for graduation pursuant to Section 51225.3, which opportunity may include, but is not limited to, completion of the coursework through a fifth year of instruction, credit recovery, or other opportunity to complete the required coursework. (EC 51225)

This exemption is also extended to any student who was in their 5th year of high school in the 2020-21 school year.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6173 - Education for Homeless Children)

(cf. 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth)

(cf. 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families)

(cf. 6173.3 - Education for Juvenile Court School Students)

(cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)

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 former students who: (Education Code 48204.4, 51430, 51440)

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1. 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 or designee shall consider any coursework that may have been completed outside of the United States or through online or virtual courses.

2. Were interned by order of the federal government during World War II or 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. Are 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
4. Were in their senior year of high school during the 2019-20 school year, were in good academic standing and on track to graduate at the end of the 2019-20 school year as of March 1, 2020, and were unable to complete the statewide graduation requirements as a result of the COVID-19 crisis

Honorary Diplomas

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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 student's home country following the completion of one academic school year in the district

(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

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)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

47612 - Enrollment in charter school

48200 - Compulsory attendance

48204.4 - Parents/guardians departing California against their will

48412 - Certificate of proficiency

48430 - Continuation education schools and classes

48645.5 - Acceptance of coursework

48980 - Required notification at beginning of term

49701 - Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

51224 - Skills and knowledge required for adult life

51224.5 - Algebra instruction

51225.1 - Exemption from district graduation requirements

51225.2 - Student in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course

51225.3 - High school graduation

51225.35 - Mathematics course requirements; computer science

51225.36 - Instruction in sexual harassment and violence; districts that require health education for graduation

51225.5 - Honorary diplomas

51225.6 - Compression-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation

51228 - Graduation requirements

51230 - Credit for community emergency response training

51240-51246 - Exemptions from requirements

51250-51251 - Assistance to military dependents

51410-51413 - Diplomas

51420-51427 - High school equivalency certificates

51430 - Retroactive high school diplomas

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51440 - *Retroactive high school diplomas*
51450-51455 - *Golden State Seal Merit Diploma*
51745 - *Independent study restrictions*
56390-56392 - *Recognition for educational achievement, special education*
66204 - *Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria*
67386 - *Student safety; affirmative consent standard*
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
1600-1651 - *Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation*
4600-4670 - *Uniform complaint procedures*
COURT DECISIONS
O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education, High School:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs>

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

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

Policy

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Pasadena, California

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