



Book	Board Policies and ARRs
Section	6000 Instruction
Title	Graduation Requirements
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I. Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOPE) High School Diploma Requirements:

- A. To obtain a high school diploma, SCOPE pupils will complete all of the following coursework in grades 9-12 (unless subject to the course exemptions and waivers described in section I.B. below):

Subject; Number of Years; Semesters; Credits

English; 4 years; 8 semesters; 40 credits

Mathematics^[1] (Must include Algebra I or Integrated Math Level I); 2 years; 4 semesters; 20 credits
At least one course or a combination of the two courses in mathematics shall meet or exceed the rigor of the content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Completion of such course prior to grade 9 will satisfy the Algebra I or Mathematics I requirement, but it will not exempt a pupil from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12.

Physical Education (Unless exempted by law); 2 years; 4 semesters; 20 credits

Biological Science; 1 year; 2 semesters; 10 credits

Physical Science; 1 year; 2 semesters; 10 credits

US History/ Geography; 1 year; 2 semesters; 10 credits

World History/Culture/Geography; 1 year; 2 semesters; 10 credits

Economics; 1 half year; 1 semester; 5 credits

American Government/Civics; 1 half year; 1 semester; 5 credits

Visual or Performing Arts or World Language (including American Sign Language);
1 year; 2 semesters; 10 credits

Health Education/Life Skills; 1 half year; 1 semester; 5 credits

Career Technical Education (CTE); 1 half year; 1 semester; 5 credits

Technology; 1 half year; 1 semester; 5 credits or pass SCOE technology assessment

Other electives as necessary to meet the minimum credit requirements.

To successfully complete the requirements for graduation and to earn a high school diploma through SCOE, a pupil will need to have a total of 220 semester credits unless exempt or deemed to have satisfied the requirement pursuant to the Education Code.

All pupils who enroll in SCOE's juvenile court and community schools will be placed at the appropriate grade level based on course credit completion in order to provide them with opportunities to successfully complete high school.

B. Course Exemptions and Waivers

In accordance with law, the Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive SCOE's course requirements that exceed the minimum statewide graduation requirements for pupils who fall within the categories listed below, as those categories are defined by law:

1. a foster youth, homeless youth, former juvenile court school pupil, child of a military family, or child eligible for migrant education services (i.e., migratory child) who transfers between schools any time after the completion of the pupil's second year of high school; and
2. a pupil participating in a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant pupils (i.e., a newcomer program) who is in the third or fourth year of high school.

A qualifying pupil will be eligible for the exemption unless the pupil is reasonably able to complete the graduation requirements by the end of the pupil's fourth year of high school. The education rights holder or pupil (if 18 or over) may decline the exemption, and the pupil shall be permitted to attend a fifth year of high school if SCOE determines the pupil is reasonably able to complete SCOE's graduation requirements within that fifth year.

The Superintendent or designee shall also exempt or waive the SCOE specific course requirements for:

3. a pupil who completes the statewide graduation requirements while attending a juvenile court school. The education rights holder or pupil (if 18 or over) may defer or decline the issuance of a high school diploma in order to continue to take coursework, but SCOE shall issue the diploma if it is later requested.
4. **an individual with exceptional needs whose individualized education program provides the pupil will 1) take the state's alternate assessment aligned to alternative achievement standards in grade 11; and 2) complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the state's coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3.**

II. Alternative Credits

Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some pupils, the Board recognizes the following alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law:

- practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
- supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
- career technical education classes offered in high schools,
- courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs,

- interdisciplinary study,
- independent study, and
- credit earned at a postsecondary educational institution.

III. Certificate or Document of Educational Achievement and Honorary Diplomas

~~If a pupil with a disability does not qualify for a regular high school diploma,~~ **If a pupil with a disability is not on a high school diploma track per their individual education program (IEP),** he or she may be awarded a certificate or document of educational achievement or completion provided the pupil has met one of the requirements of Education Code 56390.

The Board may confer an honorary high school diploma on a pupil who is terminally ill. The honorary diploma will be clearly distinguishable from SCOE's regular graduation diploma.

IV. Retroactive Diplomas

Any pupil who completed grade 12 in school years 2003-04 through 2014-15 and met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination is eligible for a high school diploma.

The Board may retroactively grant a high school diploma to a former pupil who was interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who is a honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that the former pupil was enrolled in a school district immediately preceding the internment or military service and did not receive a diploma because the person's education was interrupted due to the internment or military service.

The Board may retroactively grant a high school diploma to a person who unwillingly departed from California as set forth in law while enrolled in grade 12 if the person was in good academic standing and did not receive a school diploma because the departure interrupted the person's education. SCOE may consider any coursework that the pupil may have completed outside of the United States or through online or virtual courses.

The Board also may retroactively grant a diploma to a deceased former pupil who satisfies the above conditions. The diploma may be received by the deceased pupil's next of kin or other appropriate person.

In addition to the individuals referenced above, the Board may grant a diploma to a veteran who entered the military service of the United States while he/she was a SCOE pupil in grade 12 and who had completed the first half of the work required for grade 12.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160, 35160.2 Authority of governing boards
 48070-48070.5 Promotion and retention of pupils
 48645.5 Completion of statewide requirements in court school
 48645.7 Juvenile court school diploma
 49701 Provisions of Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
 51220 Courses of study, grades 7 to 12
 51224.5 Mathematics and algebra in grades 7 to 12
 51225.1 Exemption from local graduation requirements
 51225.3 Requirements for graduation
51225.31 Exemption for individuals with exceptional needs
 51225.5 Honorary diplomas
 51241 Exemption from physical education

51413 Diplomas

51430 et seq. Retroactive high school diplomas

51880 et seq. Comprehensive health education

56390 Individuals with exceptional needs; certificate or document of educational achievement or completion

TITLE 5, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

1600-1651 Graduation of pupils from grade 12 and credit toward graduation

[\[1\]](#) ~~At least one course or a combination of the two courses in mathematics shall meet or exceed the rigor of the content standards for Algebra I or Mathematics I. Completion of such course prior to grade 9 will satisfy the Algebra I or Mathematics I requirement, but it will not exempt a pupil from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12.~~