

Los Alamitos USD

Board Policy

High School Graduation Requirements

BP 6146.1

Instruction

Los Alamitos High School

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

Course Requirements

The Board has established the following requirements for high school graduation. To receive a diploma of graduation from the Los Alamitos Unified School District, a student must satisfactorily complete all graduation requirements.

1. A student shall earn a minimum of 220 units to qualify for graduation from the Los Alamitos High School.
2. The following courses and units shall be completed as part of the 220 units required for a diploma of graduation from the Los Alamitos High School:
 1. 40 Credits (8 Semesters) English - Must be enrolled every semester.
 2. 30 Credits (6 Semesters) History - Must include 10 credits World History, Cultures, and Geography; 10 credits United States History (including Geography); 5 credits American Political Tradition (including American Government and Civics); and 5 credits Economics.
 3. 20 Credits (4 Semesters) Mathematics (minimum requirement of Algebra I or equivalent)
 4. 20 Credits (4 Semesters) Physical Education
 5. 20 Credits (4 Semesters) Science - 10 credits, Biological and 10 credits, Physical
 6. 10 Credits (2 Semesters) Fine Arts or World Language
 7. 10 Credits (2 Semesters) Fine Arts or Applied Arts

These required courses comprise 150 of the 220 required credits. The remaining 70 credits are student elective choices. Students may enroll in a maximum of 40 credits per semester, including Regional Occupational Program (ROP).

Students are required to complete a non-credit bearing, pass/no pass, health education module to meet graduation requirements. The module will be delivered in Physical Education 9. Students who don't complete Physical Education 9 will be responsible for completing the health requirement independently.

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. Students seeking to complete a graduation requirement from an outside institution must receive written approval from the Superintendent or designee.

The Superintendent or designee shall exempt or waive specific course requirements for foster youth or children of military families in accordance with Education Code 51225.1 and 49701.

Students in grades 9-10 shall be enrolled in at least six courses each semester, five of which must be on campus. Students in grades 11-12 shall be enrolled in at least five courses each semester, four of which must be on campus. Students must be enrolled as regular students at the comprehensive high school in the last semester of their senior year in order to qualify for a comprehensive high school diploma.

A student who completes the second semester of the senior year at the comprehensive high school, but who fails to graduate, may earn a comprehensive high school diploma by (1) completing the graduation requirements at a continuation high school or at any recognized institution within one calendar year of his/her senior year. Fifth year seniors are not allowed to remain at the comprehensive high school.

To attend high school and college concurrently, students must meet with their counselors to make the necessary arrangement prior to taking any college courses. In unique cases when a student has exhausted the highest level of course offerings in a required subject yet needs further credits in that subject to meet the graduation requirement, a student may seek approval to take a college-level course(s) to complete his/her graduation requirement. High school credit may be included in the student's high school GPA if the student successfully completes the college course(s) in an accredited institution, with the equivalent hours of a high school course. The student's college course(s) must be approved by the principal or designee and the superintendent or designee prior to taking the course(s). Official transcripts or other documents must be submitted to the counseling office of the high school in order to establish credit allowances. No more than the required credits needed to meet the graduation requirement will be accepted into the student's high school transcript and GPA.

NOTE: Courses that meet high school graduation requirements will be marked "H.S." (subject area).

1 Exemption from earning the required graduation credits in physical education may be granted when the student's physical abilities are limited to a degree that precludes the student's involvement in any of the Los Alamitos High School Physical Education courses including a modified program.

2 A maximum of 10 credits of Fine Arts can meet either the g or h requirement, but not both.

3 Exemptions from enrollment as a regular student during the last semester of the senior year may be granted if prior written approval is obtained from the student's counselor. The program requested must be by invitation and/or provide an educational experience that the comprehensive high school cannot duplicate. The accredited outside program must provide equivalent courses and hours that are required for high school graduation. The written request must be approved by the counselor, principal or designee, and superintendent or designee. The Board will be notified of each request and decision made.

4 For example, an individual mathematics program at the college level may be established for a student who has completed Calculus B/C and who has not completed the high school mathematics graduation requirement.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

37252 Supplemental instructional programs
37254 Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit exam by end of grade 12
37254.1 Required student participation in supplemental instruction
47612 Enrollment in charter school
48200 Compulsory attendance
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 Pupil in foster care defined; acceptance of coursework, credits, retaking of course
51225.3 High school graduation
51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students
51228 Graduation requirements
51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements
51250-51251 Assistance to military dependents
51410-51412 Diplomas
51420-51427 High school equivalency certificates
51450-51455 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
51745 Independent study restrictions
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education
60850-60859 High school exit examination
66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation
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 LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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