

BOARD POLICY

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

Students

5128.1 - BP

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL

The Board of Education establishes the following requirements for the satisfactory completion of the high school program of study and for the granting of the high school diploma of graduation. The student will:

1. Successfully complete a minimum of 230 semester credits. (To be applied toward the completion of this requirement, any credit taken outside of the regular high school program while attending a district comprehensive high school must be approved in advance by the principal or his designee and by the parent/guardian and must relate to identified goals of the student.)

2. Successfully complete the specific requirements as indicated below:

A. Language Arts: 4 years 40 credits
Language Arts 1 10 credits
Language Arts 2 10 credits
Language Arts 3 10 credits
Language Arts 4 or approved
Language Arts electives..... 10 credits

B. Mathematics: 2 years 20 credits

Students shall complete at least one mathematics course that meets the state academic content standards for Algebra I. Students may complete such coursework prior to Grade 9 provided that they also complete two mathematics courses in Grades 9-12.

C. Social Science: 3 years 30 credits
World History/Culture/Geography or
AP European History 10 credits
U.S. History/Geography 10 credits
U.S. Government 5 credits
Economics 5 credits

D. Science: 2 years 20 credits

To include instruction in biological and physical science.

E. Physical Education: 2 years 20 credits
P.E./Wellness 9 or Athletics 10 credits
P.E./Wellness or Athletics 10 credits

- F. Visual or Performing Arts, World Language, Career Technical Education:
1 year..... 10 credits

Visual or performing arts includes courses from the fields of art, music, drama, humanities and dance. Dance may not be taken to satisfy both fine arts and physical education requirements. 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.

- G. Health Education 5 credits
- H. Academic Studies and Career Planning 5 credits
or two years of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
International Baccalaureate (IB) and Cambridge (AICE) students are exempt from this requirement.
- I. Beginning with the graduating class of 2030 and for every subsequent class:
Multicultural Studies 5 credits
- J. Service Learning/Community Service40 hours
- K. Elective Courses 80 credits

No more than twenty (20) of these elective credits may be earned in work experience or service-based courses. The 20 service-based credits which may be accumulated from Grades 9-12 are office, classroom, and library aides. This excludes home study. Such courses shall be periodically reviewed and designated by the Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services, to meet this requirement.

NOTE: In accordance with Education Code 51225.3, alternative means for students to complete the above-prescribed courses of study may be developed and implemented with the approval of the superintendent or designee.

- 3. All students have the opportunity to take up to 20 credits (two full-year course) in external courses (courses from external institutions, i.e., community college or accredited programs outside of PYLUSD) which may be included on the student’s PYLUSD transcript, allowing them to navigate conflicts with their schedule. (See BP/AR 6178.2)

With prior authorization from their school counselor, students may take one, ten-credit, PYLUSD-approved summer school course for original credit as a graduation requirement before 9th, 10th, 11th, and/or 12th grade, (no more than one, ten-credit course may be taken in any summer), for a maximum of four approved summer classes (40 credits) over a four-year high school career.

- 4. Transfer students must meet all requirements for high school graduation established by the State of California. Transfer students who had met the requirements of their former districts prior to enrollment will be required to meet only those requirements of this district which may reasonably be expected during the time remaining in the normal four-year period of attendance. An evaluation indicating remaining requirements shall be made immediately upon receipt of transfer records. This evaluation shall be interpreted to each student and parent/guardian concerned. Principals or their designated representatives shall have the authority to exercise discretion in this matter.

5. Exemptions from District-Approved Graduation Requirements

An individual with exceptional needs, who entered 9th grade in the 2022-23 school year or later, shall be eligible for the exemption and award described in Education Code 51225.31 (a) if their individualized education program provides for all of the following (Education Code 51225.31 (b)):

- (a) The pupil's individualized education program team has deemed the student eligible to take the state alternate assessments
- (b) The pupil is required to complete state standards-aligned coursework to meet the statewide course requirements specified in Section 51225.3.

The District shall exempt an individual with exceptional needs who satisfies the eligibility criteria described above from all courses and other requirements adopted by the governing board that are additional to the statewide course requirements and shall award the pupil a diploma of graduation from high school.

An individual with exceptional needs who meets the criteria for an alternative diploma-pathway pursuant to this policy shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation with their grade-level peers with and without disabilities. Participation in graduation activities shall not be construed as termination of the provision of free appropriate public education consistent with Section 300.102(a)(3)(ii) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

In addition, a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, 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 additional requirements in time to graduate by the end of the fourth year of high school.

Within 30 days of the transfer into a school by a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student, or of the commencement of participation in a newcomer program, as applicable, the Superintendent or designee shall notify any eligible student, and others as required by law, of the availability of the exemption from local graduation requirements and whether the student qualifies for it.

The Superintendent or designee shall not require or request a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program who is exempted from district-established graduation requirements and who completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, to graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

If a foster youth, student experiencing homelessness, former juvenile court school student, child of a military family, migrant student, or a newly arrived immigrant student participating in a newcomer program was not properly notified of an exemption, declined the exemption, or was not previously exempted, the student or the person holding the right to make educational decisions for the student may request the exemption and the Superintendent or designee shall exempt the student within 30

days of the request. Any such student who at one time qualified for the exemption may request the exemption even if the student is no longer eligible.

Annually, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the California Department of Education, in accordance with Education Code 51225.1, the number of student's graduating from the fourth or fifth year of high school who, for the prior school year, graduated with an exemption from district-established graduation requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements.

6. Honorary Diplomas

The Board may grant an honorary high school diploma to:

- a. A student who is terminally ill or deceased prior to graduation. The diploma shall be received by the deceased student's next of kin. (Education Code 51430)
- b. Pursuant to Education Code 51430, the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District may authorize retroactive high school diplomas to former students who are veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and to former students who were interned during World War II, under the conditions specified below.

A retroactive high school diploma may be granted to a former student who was interned by order of the federal government during World War II or who is an honorably discharged veteran of World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, provided that he/she was enrolled in the district immediately preceding the internment or military service and he/she did not receive a diploma because his/her education was interrupted due to the internment or military service. (Education Code 51430)

Principals are designated the authority to resolve issues which may arise in the transition periods caused by changes in graduation requirements.

Administrative regulations shall be established to facilitate the implementation of this policy.

Legal Reference

Education Code:	Section	Description
	47612	Average daily attendance 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	Former juvenile court school students; enrollment
	48980	Parent/Guardian notifications
	49701	Provisions of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children
	51224	Skills and knowledge required for adult life
	51224.5	Algebra in course of study for grades 7-12
	51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements
	51225.2	Course credits
	51225.3	High school graduation requirements
	51225.31	Exemption for students with disabilities
	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; foreign exchange and terminally ill students
51225.6	Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation; districts that require health education for graduation
51225.9	Courses of Study, Grades 7 to 12; Career Technical Education
51226.7	Model Curriculum in Ethnic Studies
51228	Course of study; offerings and timely opportunity
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
51440	Credit and granting of diploma to veterans and members of the military service
51450-51455	Golden State Seal Merit Diploma
51744-51749.6	Independent study
56390-56392	Recognition for educational achievement; special education
60640	California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress
66204	Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria
67386	Student safety; affirmative consent standard

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