
FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Instruction
COURSES OF STUDY

The County Superintendent and County Board recognize that a well-aligned sequence of courses fosters academic growth and provides for the best possible use of instructional time. The County Superintendent/County Board course of study shall provide students with opportunities to attain the skills, knowledge, and abilities they need to be successful academically, professionally, and personally.

The County Superintendent or designee shall establish processes for ensuring the articulation of courses across grade levels within the County Superintendent-operated schools. As necessary, the County Superintendent or designee shall work with representatives of appropriate area districts and postsecondary institutions to ensure articulation of courses with other institutions to which the County Superintendent/County Board students may matriculate. The sequence of courses shall be designed to ensure that each course provides adequate preparation for the next course in the sequence, only utilizes prerequisites that are essential to success in a given program or course, avoids significant duplication of content, and allows for reinforcement and progression in the subject matter.

The County Superintendent shall not provide any course separately or require or refuse participation by any student on the basis of the student's actual race or ethnicity; ancestry; color, ethnic group identification; nationality; national origin; immigration status; sex; sexual orientation; sex stereotypes; gender; gender identity; gender expression; religion; disability; medical condition; genetic information; pregnancy, false pregnancy, childbirth, termination of pregnancy, or related conditions or recovery; and parental, marital, and family status; a perception of one or more of such characteristics; a combination of two or more of such characteristics or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or a combination of two or more of them. (Education Code 200, 210.1, 210.2, 212, 212.1, 220, 221.51, 230, 260; Government Code 11135, 12926; Penal Code 422.55; 5 CCR 4940; 20 USC 1681-1688, 42 USC 2000d-2000d-7)

Elementary Grades

As applicable, the County Superintendent and County Board shall adopt a course of study for elementary grades that includes all required instructional content and sufficiently prepares students for the secondary course of study.

Secondary Grades

The County Superintendent/County Board shall offer all otherwise qualified students in grades 7-12 a course of study that includes all required instructional content and prepares them, upon graduation from high school, to meet the requirements and prerequisites for admission to California public colleges and universities and to attain entry-level employment skills in business or industry. The County Superintendent/County Board course of study may provide for a rigorous academic curriculum that integrates academic and career skills, includes applied learning across all disciplines, and prepares all students for high school graduation and career

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entry. (Education Code 51228)

In addition, the course of study for students in grades 9-12 shall include instruction in skills and knowledge for adult life, career technical training, and a timely opportunity for all otherwise qualified students to enroll, within four years, in each course necessary to fulfill the requirements and prerequisites for admission to California public colleges and universities prior to graduation. (Education Code 51224, 51228)

The County Superintendent or designee shall develop a process by which courses that meet California college admission criteria (referred to as "A-G" course requirements) are submitted to the University of California for review and certification. The County Superintendent or designee shall maintain an accurate list of all current high school courses that have been so certified, shall ensure that the list is provided annually to all students in grades 9-12 and their parents/guardians, and shall make updated lists readily available. (Education Code 51229, 66204)

Parental Notification and Opt-Out

When required by law, policy, or administrative regulation, the County Superintendent or designee shall notify parents/guardians that they may request to opt their student out of certain instruction. Students for whom the County Superintendent or designee has approved the opt-out shall be offered an alternative activity of similar educational value.

Adopted: 10/20/2011

Amended: 11/19/2020, 06/15/2023, 03/19/2026

Legal Reference**Education Code**

200 Prohibition of discrimination
33319.3 Driver education; CDE materials on road rage
33540 Government and civics instruction in interaction with government agencies
33540.2 Model curriculum related to Vietnamese American refugee experience
33540.4 Model curriculum related to Cambodian American history and heritage
33547.5 Mathematics framework; Algebra I or Mathematics offered to students in grade 8
33548 Media literacy and artificial intelligence literacy curriculum frameworks
48980 Parental notifications
49060-49079 Student records
49110.5 Workplace readiness week
51202 Instruction in personal and public health and safety
51203 Instruction on alcohol, narcotics and restricted dangerous drugs
51204 Course of study designed for student's needs
51204.5 Social science instruction; history of California; contributions of various groups
51210-51212 Course of study for grades 1-6
51220-51229 Course of study for grades 7-12
51241 Exemption from physical education

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51501 Nondiscriminatory subject matter
51911-51921 Comprehensive health education
51925-51929 Mandatory mental health education and in-service training
51930-51939 Comprehensive sexual health and HIV/AIDS prevention instruction
51940 Curriculum for brain and spinal cord injury prevention
60040-60052 Requirements for instructional materials
60900-60901 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System
66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admission criteria
69560-69566 California Student Opportunity and Access Program

Government Code

11135 Prohibition of discrimination
12900-12996 Fair Employment and Housing Act
17581.6 Reimbursement of state mandates; block grants

Health and Safety Code

11032 Definitions of dangerous drugs

Code of Regulation, Title 5

4940 Nondiscrimination; course access
10020-10043 Automobile driver education and training
10060 Physical education program

United States Code, Title 20

1232g Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974
1681-1688 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; discrimination based on sex

Court Decisions

Mahmoud v. Taylor (2025) 606 U.S. ____ (2025 WL 1773627)
Westminster School District of Orange County v. Mendez (1947) 161 F.2d 774

Management Resources

California Attorney General Publication

Guidance to School Officials re: Legal Requirements for Providing Inclusive Curricula and Books

California Department of Education Publication

Education Code 51925: Mental Health Instruction Expansion Education Plan, rev. March 2024

CSBA Publications

Fact Sheet: Instructional Materials Adoption: Local governing board responsibilities, February 2024

Instructional Materials Adoptions: State and local governing board processes, roles, and responsibilities, February 2024