

FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**Instruction****ALTERNATIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION**

In order to meet individual student needs and encourage all students to complete their high school education, the County Superintendent and County Board desire to provide flexibility in the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

With the active involvement of parents/guardians, administrators, teachers, and students, the County Superintendent and County Board shall adopt alternative means for students to complete the prescribed course of study required for high school graduation. These alternative means shall be made available to students, parents/guardians, and the public. (Education Code 51225.3)

Students may fulfill any course requirement for graduation through the following:

1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies. (Education Code 51225.3)

Opportunities to demonstrate skills and competencies shall include, but not be limited to, challenging a course through successful completion of a County Superintendent-developed examination which covers course objectives. The County Superintendent shall not use results from the General Educational Development test or other state or national tests for this purpose.

2. Supervised work experience or other outside school experience in accordance with Education Code 51760.3 and 5 CCR 1635. (Education Code 51225.3)
3. Career technical education classes offered in high school. (Education Code 51225.3)
4. Courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs. (Education Code 51225.3)
5. Interdisciplinary study. (Education Code 51225.3)
6. Independent study. (Education Code 51225.3)
7. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution. (Education Code 48800, 51225.3)
8. Private instruction in accordance with 5 CCR 1631.
9. Correspondence instruction from a California university or college accredited for teacher training in accordance with 5 CCR 1633. (Education Code 51740-51741)
10. Military service and training in accordance with 5 CCR 1634. (Education Code 51440)
11. To satisfy driver education and training requirement, a program approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles which offers driver education and behind-the-wheel

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instruction through a driving school or licensed independent driving instructor in accordance with Vehicle Code 12814.6.

12. For credit toward physical education requirement, participation in interscholastic athletic programs carried on wholly or partially after regular school hours. (Education Code 51242)

A student shall be eligible to satisfy graduation requirements in this manner only if the interscholastic program entails a comparable amount of time and physical activity.

13. For credit toward foreign language requirement, foreign language studies successfully completed in a private school in accordance with 5 CCR 1632. (Education Code 51243)

Upon receiving advance, written application by the student or his/her parent/guardian, the County Superintendent or designee shall determine whether completion of the proposed alternative means would satisfy course requirements for graduation and what documentation shall be required, if any, to verify the student's successful completion. The County Superintendent or designee shall make the final determination as to whether the student's completion of an alternative means is sufficient to satisfy graduation requirements.

As appropriate, the County Superintendent or designee shall determine the grade to be assigned to students for the completion of any of the above alternative means. When a grade is assigned by a private school, postsecondary institution, or other educational institution for completion of coursework, that same grade shall be awarded by the County Superintendent provided that the County Superintendent or designee has determined the alternative course to be substantially equivalent to a County Superintendent course.

Adopted: 04/15/2015

Amended: 11/19/2020

Legal ReferenceEducation Code

35160 Authority of governing boards

35160.1 Broad authority of school districts

48412 Certificate of proficiency

48645.5 Course credit, juvenile court schools

48800-48802 Attendance at community college; advanced education

51220 Areas of study; grades 7-12

51225.3 Requirements for graduation

51240-51246 Exemptions from requirements

51420-51427 General Educational Development test

51440 Veterans' education, evaluation and credit toward high school graduation

51740-51741 Authority to provide instruction by correspondence

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51745-51749.3 Independent study
51760-51769.5 Work experience education
52300-52499.66 Career technical education

Vehicle Code

12814.6 Teen driver's act

Code of Regulations, Title 5

1600-1635 Alternative credit
10070-10075 Work experience education
11500-11508 Regional occupational centers and programs
11520-11523 Proficiency examination and certificate
11700-11703 Independent study

United States Code, Title 20

2301-2414 Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

Management Resources

Websites

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>