

# Board Study Session

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August 12, 2026

# Why Are We Here?

## Study Session to update progress on Board Action from February 11, 2026

- 1 To ensure graduation requirements remain equitable, relevant, and attainable, the Board seeks to initiate a review process that centers on student success.
- 2 This process will include collaboration with educators to identify barriers to completion, assess the effectiveness of existing academic and counseling supports, and examine opportunities to strengthen alignment across instructional programs, including Career Technical Education (CTE) and the arts.
- 3 Staff is directed to return to the Board with a formal recommendation that: Expected October 2026
  - Maintains high academic standards and readiness expectations.
  - Incorporates feedback from teachers and instructional leaders regarding course sequencing, student workload, and instructional capacity.
  - Identifies policy adjustments and support structures necessary to improve access, persistence, and graduation outcomes for all students.

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- 2 This process will include collaboration with educators to identify barriers to completion, assess the effectiveness of existing academic and counseling supports, and examine opportunities to strengthen alignment across instructional programs, including Career Technical Education (CTE) and the arts. In Progress
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October  
2026

# Outcomes

**01**

## **Overview Graduation Requirements Policy**

Provide content and context about California, Sonoma County, and local graduation requirements as the board considers policy adjustments.

**02**

## **Data Analysis**

Provide analysis of the current state of our graduation data points

**03**

## **Roadmap to a Recommendation**

Provide a strategic roadmap for the board to align on what defining characteristics a Santa Rosa City Schools graduate represents.

# Agenda

Presentation and discussion in three sections:

1. Graduation Requirements – California Ed Code and Board Policies
  - Discussion
2. Graduation Data – Analysis of graduation rates
  - Discussion
3. Student Success Committee – Report on Work to Date and Next Steps
  - Discussion

# Part 1

## Overview Graduation Requirements Policy

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# Graduation Requirements in California

- Graduation requirements in California are spelled out in Ed Code Section 51225.3 since the 1986/87 school year
- These include 13 courses\* that all students in California need to complete to receive a High School diploma
- Local school boards can add additional local graduation requirements, which historically have included an additional 9 courses (for a total of 22 courses or 220 credits)
- All courses that meet graduation requirements need to teach the content standards authorized in Ed Code Sections 60605 through 60605.85 (Common Core for ELA and Math, NGSS for Science)

\* There is an additional requirement for a semester of ethnic studies and a financial literacy course being phased in 2029-30.

# Graduation Pathways at Santa Rosa City Schools

- High School Diploma Pathway (220 credits – BP 6146.1)
  - + 3rd Year of Math Waiver
- Industry Concentration Graduation Pathway (220 credits – BP 6146.1)
  - CTE Pathway
- Alternative Diploma (180 credits and 220 credits options – AR 6146.1)
  - Ridgway HS & Grace program @ Piner High Schools (220 credits diploma only)
- Minimum State Diploma (130 credits – BP 6146.1)
  - Available only to specific subgroups listed in Ed Code 51225.1 and AB 167/216
- Custom Graduation Pathway (180 and 130 credits options – BP/AR 6146.4)
  - Available to Special Education students through IEP
- Certificate of Completion (BP 6146.4)
  - Available to Special Education students who complete 12th grade and meet their IEP goals
  - Can become an Alternative CA High School Diploma if conditions are met

# High School Diploma Requirements (BP 6146.1)

- 40 credits of English Language Arts (B Requirement)
- 30 credits of Mathematics, including Math 1, Math 2, *and choice of a 3rd year* (C Requirement)
- 20 credits of Science, including life science and physical science (D Requirement)
- 30 credits of History, including World History, US History, Government, and Economics (A Requirement / State Requirement)
- 20 credits of Physical Education (State Requirement)
- 20 credits of World Language (E Requirement)
- 10 credits of Visual & Performing Arts (F Requirement)
- 50 elective credits (G Requirement)
- + 10 credits of Ethnic Studies (can be fulfilled by a course in another requirement)

# Sonoma County Office of Education Grad Policy Study

- Most Sonoma County districts requires 3 years of math
  - Petaluma City Schools will require it starting with class of 2029
  - Sonoma Valley, West County, and Cloverdale are the only districts without this requirement
- SRCS was among the first districts to implement this policy
- SRCS is one of five districts (our of eleven) to have a full A-G compliant policy
  - 2 years of World Language remains the most missed requirement

| Sonoma County Comprehensive High Schools – Graduation Requirements |                                                                        |                                                                                              |                                                                        |                                                                        |                                                                        |                                                                        |                                                                        |                                                                        |                                                                        |                                                                        |                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| High School District                                               | Central-Sonoma Park Unified School District                            | West Sonoma County Unified School District                                                   | Window Unified School District                                         | Humboldt Unified School District                                       | Petaluma City Schools                                                  | Santa Rosa City Schools                                                | Santa Rosa City Schools                                                | Redwood School District                                                | Cloverdale Unified School District                                     | Sonoma Valley Unified School District                                  |                           |
| Year of course offered and A-G compliance                          | Rocky Gate High School                                                 | Albany High School                                                                           | Window High School                                                     | Humboldt High School                                                   | Petaluma High / Cross-County High                                      | Petaluma High / Cross-County High                                      | SRHS, GATE, PHS, SVHS                                                  | Marin Camille High                                                     | Redwood University Prep                                                | Cloverdale High School                                                 | Sonoma Valley High School |
| Social Studies                                                     | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5                       | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 | World History - 10<br>US History - 10<br>American Gov. - 5<br>Exam - 5 |                           |
|                                                                    | 40 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                                                   | 40 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                             |                           |
| Mathematics                                                        | 30 credits<br>(Most pass Alg. 1)                                       | 30 credits<br>Math pass req. 1<br>*Students must complete Math 1 and Math 2 or AP Statistics | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits<br>(Most pass Algebra 1)                                    | 30 credits<br>(Most pass Algebra 1)                                    |                           |
| Science                                                            | Physical Science - 10<br>Life Science - 10                             | Physical Science - 10<br>Life Science - 10                                                   | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits<br>Physical Science - 10<br>Life Science - 10               | Physical Science - 10<br>Life Science - 10                             |                           |
| World Language (Foreign Language)                                  | 30 credits*                                                            | No world language req.                                                                       | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             |                           |
| Visual & Performing Arts (VAPA)                                    | *18 credits could also be satisfied via a CTE course                   | 30 credits                                                                                   | *18 credits could also be satisfied via a CTE course                   | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | *18 credits could also be satisfied via a CTE course                   | *18 credits could also be satisfied via a CTE course                   | 30 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             |                           |
| Physical Education                                                 | 20 credits                                                             | 20 credits                                                                                   | 20 credits                                                             | 20 credits                                                             | 20 credits                                                             | 20 credits                                                             | *No PE and/or Dance                                                    | *No PE and/or Dance                                                    | 20 credits                                                             | 20 credits                                                             |                           |
| Elections                                                          | 70 credits                                                             | 70 credits                                                                                   | 70 credits                                                             | 30 credits                                                             | 60 credits                                                             | 50 credits                                                             | 50 credits                                                             | 40 credits                                                             | 70 credits                                                             | 70 credits                                                             |                           |

Attached as PDF and in Print

\*Fulfilling 75% and 1 credits of Global Studies requirement with the Class of 2021

Attached as PDF and in Print

# 3rd Year of Math Waiver (BP 6146.1)

A waiver is a process that intentionally excuses a student from specific graduation requirements based on certain factors. By waiving Math ~~and/or LOTE course(s)~~, students will remain on track toward graduating with a Santa Rosa City Schools diploma; however by utilizing a waiver, students will not be eligible to apply directly to a CSU or UC college because the “a-g” requirements have not been fulfilled. A waiver is initiated by specific paperwork that must be completed by a student, the student’s guardian, and school personnel.

## **Math Waiver Consideration:**

Students shall be encouraged to complete UC eligibility requirements in mathematics, but may omit the third year of math upon written, knowledgeable application by a student’s parent/ guardian.

Please note: waivers for math courses DO NOT exempt the student from the two-year California Department of Education (CDE) mathematics requirement (20 credits) which includes the state requirement of students having to pass Math 1P (the equivalent of Algebra 1P). Students still must earn 20 math credits to graduate from SRCS.

*This waiver only exempts a student from one year of the three-year SRCS math requirement for graduation.*

[SRCS BP 6146.1](#)

# High School Diploma with Industry Concentration (CTE) (BP 6146.1)

- 40 credits of English Language Arts
- **20 credits of Mathematics**, including Math 1, Math 2
- 20 credits of Science, including life science and physical science
- 30 credits of History, including World History, US History, Government, and Economics
- 20 credits of Physical Education
- **10 credits of World Language**
- **20 credits of CTE courses including a capstone course**
- 10 credits of Visual & Performing Arts
- 50 additional elective credits

# Alternative Diploma (180 Credits – RHS only) (AR 6146.1)

- 40 credits of English Language Arts
- **20 credits of Mathematics, including Math 1, Math 2**
- 20 credits of Science, including life science and physical science
- 30 credits of History, including World History, US History, Government, and Economics
- 20 credits of Physical Education
- **10 credits of Visual & Performing Arts, World Language, or CTE course**
- **40 credits additional elective credits**
  - **Can be extended to 80 elective credits for an alternative 220 credit diploma (RHS and Grace @ PHS)**

# California Minimum Diploma (130 Credits) (EC 51225.1)

- 30 credits of English Language Arts
- 20 credits of Mathematics, including Math 1
- 20 credits of Science, including life science and physical science
- 30 credits of History, including World History, US History, Government, and Economics
- 20 credits of Physical Education
- 10 credits of Visual & Performing Arts, World Language, or CTE course

Additional upcoming requirements:

- One semester of ethnic studies (starting from 2029/30)
- One semester of Personal Finance (starting from 2030/31)

# Standard SRCS 4-Year Plan

CA State  
Requirement

SRCS Board  
Requirement

A-G SRCS Board  
Requirement

Optional Elective

English 12

Government /  
Economics

Elective

Elective

Elective

Elective

English 11

Math Elective

US History

Elective

Elective

Elective

English 10

Int Math II

Science

Physical  
Education

World  
Language

World History

English 9

Int Math I

Science

Physical  
Education

World  
Language

Elective

**Math electives include:** Integrated Math III, Sports Stats, Stats for Social Justice, Math with Financial Implications, and Waiver

# Part 2

## Graduation Data Analysis

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# California School Dashboard (2024-25 Data)

Chronic Absenteeism



Orange

Suspension Rate



Yellow

English Learner Progress



Orange

Graduation Rate



Green

College/Career



Green

English Language Arts



Orange

Mathematics



Orange

Basics: Teachers,  
Instructional Materials,  
Facilities

STANDARD MET

Implementation of Academic  
Standards

STANDARD MET

Parent and Family  
Engagement

STANDARD MET

Local Climate Survey

STANDARD MET

Access to a Broad Course of  
Study

STANDARD MET

# California School Dashboard (2024-25 Data)

## LEARN MORE English Language Arts

All Students State



Orange

46.9 points below standard

Maintained -1.2 Points



[View More Details →](#)

## LEARN MORE Mathematics

All Students State



Orange

89.9 points below standard

Maintained -0.8 Points



[View More Details →](#)

## LEARN MORE English Learner Progress

All Students State



Orange

39.7% making progress

Maintained 0%



[View More Details →](#)

## LEARN MORE College/Career

All Students State



Green

Prepared 37.2%

Increased 4.6% ⓘ



[View More Details →](#)

## LEARN MORE Graduation Rate

All Students State



Green

89.9% graduated

Increased 3.4% ⓘ



[View More Details →](#)

# 2026 12th Grade Cohort Data

**94%**

**Graduation Rate**

**1,758** Students Graduated out of **1,863**

**72** Students Did Not Graduate

**33** Received a Certificate of Completion

**0** Received an Alternative CA High School Diploma

## 2026 12th Grade Graduation Rate by School

Elsie Allen High School

**91.3%**

**230 / 252**

Maria Carrillo High School

**97.0%**

**393 / 405**

Montgomery High School

**94.9%**

**297 / 313**

Piner High School

**98.0%**

**347 / 354**

Santa Rosa High School

**95.4%**

**371 / 389**

Ridgway High School

**80.0%**

**120 / 150**

## 2026 12th Grade Standard 220 Credits HS Diploma

Elsie Allen High School

**77.0%**

**177 / 230**

Maria Carrillo High School

**87.3%**

**343 / 393**

Montgomery High School

**85.2%**

**253 / 297**

Piner High School

**74.1%**

**257 / 347**

Santa Rosa High School

**57.4%**

**213 / 371**

Ridgway High School

**80.0%**

**96 / 120**

## 2026 12th Grade Mathematics Waiver

Elsie Allen High School

**11.7%**

**27 / 230**

Maria Carrillo High School

**8.1%**

**32 / 393**

Montgomery High School

**12.8%**

**38 / 297**

Piner High School

**11.2%**

**39 / 347**

Santa Rosa High School

**29.6%**

**110 / 371**

Ridgway High School

**0.8%**

**1 / 120**

## 2026 12th Grade Graduates without Fs

Elsie Allen High School

**36.3%**

**77 / 212**

Maria Carrillo High School

**70.4%**

**267 / 379**

Montgomery High School

**68.9%**

**202 / 293**

Piner High School

**56.9%**

**185 / 325**

Santa Rosa High School

**66.2%**

**215 / 325**

Ridgway High School

**10.8%**

**12 / 111**

## 2026 12th Grade Average Number of Semesters Repeated

Elsie Allen High School

**9.6**

**2,409 courses**

Maria Carrillo High School

**4.2**

**1,702 courses**

Montgomery High School

**4.1**

**1,285 courses**

Piner High School

**6.9**

**2,445 courses**

Santa Rosa High School

**5.3**

**2,074 courses**

Ridgway High School

**17.2**

**2,572 courses**

# 2026 12th Grade Average Number of Semesters Repeated

## Elsie Allen High School

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| English   | 3.3 |
| Math      | 2.7 |
| Social Ss | 1.6 |

## Maria Carrillo High School

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| English   | 0.8 |
| Math      | 0.6 |
| Social Ss | 1.5 |

## Montgomery High School

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| English   | 1.3 |
| Math      | 0.6 |
| Social Ss | 0.9 |

## Piner High School

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| English   | 1.2 |
| Math      | 1.5 |
| Social Ss | 0.7 |

## Santa Rosa High School

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| English   | 1.4 |
| Math      | 1.1 |
| Social Ss | 1.1 |

## Ridgway High School

|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| English   | 5.5 |
| Math      | 1.5 |
| Social Ss | 5.4 |

# Part 3

## Roadmap to a Recommendation

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# Direction from Board (Feb 11, 2026)

## Purpose

To initiate a collaborative review of the District's A–G graduation requirements in order to ensure they continue to support academic rigor, equity, and multiple student pathways.

## Consideration

The Board affirms the importance of A–G completion in preparing students for college and career pathways. At the same time, the Board recognizes that achieving these outcomes requires both rigorous academic expectations and appropriate, aligned supports to meet the needs of diverse learners.

**To ensure graduation requirements remain equitable, relevant, and attainable, the Board seeks to initiate a review process that centers on student success.** This process will include collaboration with educators to identify barriers to completion, assess the effectiveness of existing academic and counseling supports, and examine opportunities to strengthen alignment across instructional programs, including Career Technical Education (CTE) and the arts.

Staff is directed to return to the Board with a formal recommendation that:

- Maintains high academic standards and readiness expectations.
- Incorporates feedback from teachers and instructional leaders regarding course sequencing, student workload, and instructional capacity.
- Identifies policy adjustments and support structures necessary to improve access, persistence, and graduation outcomes for all students.

# A-G Success Committee Members

| Participant       | Site                            | Parent       | Student | Teacher | Administration  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Brittney Geddes   | Montgomery                      |              |         | Yes     |                 |
| Brittany Affronti | Independent Study               |              |         | Yes     |                 |
| Grace Sarfo       | Ridgeway High School            |              |         | Yes     |                 |
| Pete Parkinson    | Santa Rosa High School          | Yes          |         |         |                 |
| John Muchow       | Santa Rosa High School          |              |         | Yes     |                 |
| Matt O'Donnell    | Santa Rosa High School          |              |         | Yes     |                 |
| Will Lyon         | Santa Rosa High School          |              |         | Yes     |                 |
| Tyler Ahlborn     | Montgomery High School          |              |         |         | Principal       |
| Alex Suarez       | Hidden Valley Elementary School | DELAC parent |         |         |                 |
| Roderick Castro   | District Office                 |              |         |         | District office |
| Tim McCarty       | District Office                 |              |         |         | District office |
| Emanuele Bardelli | District Office                 |              |         |         | District office |
| Alisa Haley       | District Office                 |              |         |         | District office |
| Debi Cardozo      | District Office                 |              |         |         | District office |
| Erika Raffo       | District Office                 |              |         |         | District office |

# A-G Success Committee Major Perceptions

## Comments made by Committee Members on May 28<sup>th</sup>

Following an overview of the information presented to the board in 2018, committee members shared their recollections and reactions to the changes. The following themes were evident in the committee's comments

### Decision Making Process Needs Improvement

1. All of the documents presented to the board were designed by people who wanted the policy and did not include the voices of the people who did not want the policy changed.
2. These changes were done in the most horrendous way, blindsided teachers, dropped agenda Friday before spring break, no communication with teachers.
3. Lots of name calling, attacks on teachers, the union wanted a “time-out” to have a conversation with students, parents, and staff.
4. Threats of physical violence toward union president, process injustice
5. This policy was done to the community and not with the community
6. 18 months later, teachers asked for solutions, poor relationship between union and admin (at MHS). Union asked for a pause and a plan. Data showed that Ds and Fs had doubled and that it was a disaster. More name calling. Just before COVID
7. Many people showed up to the meetings to express their views. Divided community.

# A-G Success Committee Major Perceptions

## Training for Teacher

1. Perception of insufficient and/or limited training for teachers to help students be successful with these higher-level classes

## Perception of Tracking

1. Tracking means that kids are tested and then placed.
2. We were not tracking students: honors/AP, academic, regular/survey, RSP, special day.
3. We removed reg/survey classes and RSP in one year without a transition plan.
4. Students and teachers were in a terrible situation.
5. We need better academic supports at the elementary level - we are not preparing students for success

## Student Concerns

1. Students have quit - they don't see a path to graduate.
2. No data collection around students who moved from reg to a-g courses.
3. No acknowledgment of that student success
4. It wasn't always easy for students to figure out how to be college ready.
5. Off ramps were promised, but not delivered.
6. Waivers are not really off ramps.
7. Kids forced to "fail first" then get waiver.
8. We need an "on ramp" for students to get back on A-G track

# A-G Success Committee Major Perceptions

## Lessons learned from Change Process

1. We need a better process for how we roll out our changes.
2. There should be space for teachers and staff to discuss and process the proposed changes.
3. Concerns that teachers and staff voice should be listened to and discussed.
4. Large changes to curriculum and instruction require ongoing and relevant professional development

# Reframing Our Work Going Forward

## Vision

- Maintain high academic standards and readiness expectations
- This expectation is for ALL students
- All means All
- High academic standards and readiness means at-grade level

## Implementation

- If we want to meet the vision, lowering expectations for graduation won't help us in achieving it
- We also recognize that the current “A-G for All” policy was not implemented as well as it should have and that there are legitimate concerns about on-going support for students and staff in meeting these expectations
  - However, addressing these concerns requires us to do better in implementing and supporting students and staff in implementing the policy, rather than hoping that changing the policy will solve these structural issues

# Where do we stand?

Data shows:

- Significant variation school-to-school indicates site-specific differences in the implementation of the A-G graduation policy
  - Changes to the district-level graduation policy might not address these site-specific needs at this time
- The high percentage of students needing remediation (between 30% and 66%) indicates deeper structural issues with instruction rather than graduation policy
- School-to-school differences in the subjects needing remediation also suggests school- and department-specific supports might be needed to ensure A-G success for all students

# Where do we go from here?

Launch of district-wide focus on student readiness:

- Guaranteed and Viable curriculum at all grade levels and subject areas
- Work on essential standards and common formative assessments
- Literacy initiative both in early grades and secondary grades

Rework of the A-G success committee into:

- District-wide working group in shaping implementation of the district-wide initiatives above

Expand professional development to include:

- Math Institute (November 2026)
- Curriculum & Instruction Institute (October 2026)