

Policy 6143: Courses Of Study

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 03/01/2003 | **Last Revised Date:** 11/01/2025 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 11/01/2025

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

CSBA NOTE: The following optional paragraph should be revised to reflect the grade levels offered by the district. For example, unified school districts need to be concerned about articulation of courses within the district and with postsecondary institutions, whereas elementary districts and high school districts will need to address articulation with each other.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish processes for ensuring the articulation of courses across grade levels within the district. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall work with representatives of appropriate area districts and postsecondary institutions to ensure articulation of courses with other institutions to which district 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.

CSBA NOTE: In accordance with various provisions of state and federal law and regulation, and related court cases, discrimination in education programs and activities is unlawful when it is based on certain actual or perceived characteristics of an individual. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on 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. For more information regarding the requirement for district programs and activities to be free from discrimination, see BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities, regarding the protection of district students against discrimination, see BP/AR 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment, and regarding the protection of students against sexual harassment, see BP/AR 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment.

Education Code 200 and 210.2, as amended by SB 1137 (Ch. 779, Statutes of 2024), provide that prohibited discrimination includes discrimination not just because of one protected class under state law, but also because of the combination of two or more protected bases.

The district 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

CSBA NOTE: The following section is for use by districts offering elementary grades and may be revised to reflect district practice. Education Code 51225.4 mandates elementary school districts to certify to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that they have adopted a policy to implement a course of instruction that sufficiently prepares students for the secondary courses required for graduation pursuant to Education Code 51225.3.

The 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 specified in Education Code 51225.3.

Secondary Grades

CSBA NOTE: Education Code 51228 requires districts to offer students in grades 7-12 a course of study that fulfills the requirements and prerequisites for admission to California public colleges. Education Code 51228 also requires districts to offer such students the opportunity to attain entry-level employment skills. Pursuant to Education Code 51228, districts that adopt a course of study that meets or exceeds the state model curriculum standards in career

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The Board of Education recognizes that a well-aligned sequence of courses fosters academic progress and provides for the best possible use of instructional time. The district's course of study shall provide students with opportunities to attain the skills, knowledge, and abilities they need to be successful in school, college, and the workplace.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish processes for ensuring the articulation of courses across grade levels within the district. As necessary, he/she also shall work with representatives of appropriate area districts and postsecondary institutions to ensure articulation of courses with other institutions to which district 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, avoids significant duplication of content, and allows for reinforcement and progression in the subject matter.

Elementary Grades

The Board shall adopt a course of study for elementary grades that sufficiently prepares students for the secondary course of study.

Secondary Grades

The district shall offer all otherwise qualified students in grades 7-12 a course of study that 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. (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 before graduation, in each course necessary to fulfill the requirements and prerequisites for admission to California public colleges and universities. (Education Code 51224, 51228)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a process by which courses that meet college admission criteria (referred to as "a-g" course requirements) are submitted to the University of California for review and certification. He/she 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 each student in grades 9-12, and shall make updated lists readily available. (Education Code 51229, 66204)

technical education will be deemed to have satisfied the requirement.

Education Code 66204 prohibits a public school from establishing any policy or practice that directs any student away from choosing programs that prepare a student academically for college, especially for cultural or linguistic reasons.

The following paragraph is for use by districts maintaining any of grades 7-12 and should be revised to reflect the grade levels offered by the district.

The district 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 district's 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 entry. (Education Code 51228)

CSBA NOTE: The remainder of this policy is for use by districts maintaining any of grades 9-12.

Additionally, 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)

CSBA NOTE: Among the criteria for admission to the University of California (UC) or California State University system is a requirement that high school students satisfactorily complete 15 yearlong/30 semesters of specified courses ("A-G" courses). These include a growing number of career technical education courses that connect knowledge of academic content with practical or work-related applications.

In order to qualify as an "A-G" course, the course must first be submitted to and approved by UC. Education Code 51229 requires that districts annually provide the list of certified courses to the parents/guardians of students in grades 9-12; see the accompanying administrative regulation and E(1) 5145.6 - Parental Notifications.

The 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 Superintendent or designee shall maintain an accurate list of all current high school courses that have been so certified, ensure that the list is provided annually to all students in grades 9-12 and their parents/guardians, and make updated lists readily available. (Education Code 51229, 66204)

Parental Notification and Opt-Out

CSBA NOTE: Districts are required to teach certain instructional content. For example, Education Code 51204.5 requires instruction in social sciences to include a study of the role and contributions of specified groups of people to the economic, political, and social development of California and the United States of America, which includes people of all genders, Native Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, European Americans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) Americans, and members of other ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic status groups. Additionally, pursuant to Education Code 243 and 51501, the Governing Board may not prohibit the continued use of an appropriately adopted textbook, instructional material, or curriculum on the basis that it contains inclusive or diverse perspectives.

State law requires districts to provide parents/guardians notice and the opportunity to opt their students out of certain instruction, in some instances only based on religious beliefs and in other instances for any basis. For more information, see BP/AR 6142.1 -- Sexual Health And HIV/AIDS Prevention Instruction.

Additionally, in June 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, held that the First Amendment prohibited a district from including LGBTQ storybooks as part of elementary school instruction without providing parents with notice and the ability to opt their students out of that instructional content on the grounds that the storybooks substantially interfered with the religious development of their children. The court's reasoning may be interpreted to apply to other instructional content that parents/guardians could view as substantially interfering with the religious development of their children. In addition, the court's holding emphasized that the question of whether certain instructional content substantially interferes with the religious development of a student will always be fact-intensive. For more information, see BP/AR 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs.

In light of Mahmoud and the existence of some statutorily required opt-opts and the requirement to teach certain

content, it is recommended that districts consult CSBA's District and County Office of Education Legal Services or district legal counsel when determining the instructional content for which parents/guardians may opt their students out, creating opt-out procedures, and evaluating opt-out requests.

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