

Administrative Regulation 6146.1b

High School Graduation Requirements

Purpose:

This Administrative Regulation (AR) outlines the procedures for implementing the Graduation Requirements Exemptions Policy, ensuring compliance with AB 2251 and the equitable application of exemptions for eligible students.

Eligibility Criteria:

This exemption applies to students who experience:

- Mental or physical health challenges impacting academic performance.
- Unavoidable lapses in attendance due to extenuating circumstances.
- Other hardships as determined on a case-by-case basis.

Foster youth, students experiencing homelessness, and other highly mobile student populations retain their rights under existing law to be exempted from local graduation requirements and may be eligible for exemption under this provision as well.

Process:

1. Identification of Eligible Students:

- School counselors, teachers, and administrators will identify students who may benefit from an exemption due to mental or physical health issues, unavoidable lapses in attendance, or other significant challenges.
- Students or their educational rights holders may also request an exemption by submitting a written request to the school administration.

2. Exemption Assessment:

- Upon identification or request, the school counselor or designated staff member will schedule an exemption assessment meeting with the student and their educational rights holder.
- During the assessment, the potential impacts of not fulfilling locally required coursework on the student's ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education will be discussed.
- The exemption assessment will include a review of the student's academic record, graduation requirements, and post-secondary goals.

3. Documentation:

- The exemption assessment will be documented, including the date, participants, and key points discussed.
- The assessment documentation and the decision regarding the exemption will be provided to the student and their educational rights holder upon development and completion.

4. Decision-Making:

- The school principal or designated administrator will review the exemption assessment summary and make a decision regarding the exemption.
- The decision will be based on the student's individual circumstances, academic progress, and the potential impact on their future educational opportunities.
- If approved, the exemption shall be documented in the student's cumulative record and communicated to all relevant school personnel.

5. Appeals Process:

- If the exemption request is denied, the student and their educational rights holder may appeal the decision by submitting a written appeal to the Superintendent or designee within 30 days of receiving the decision.
- The Superintendent or designee will review the appeal and make a final decision within 30 days of receiving the appeal.

6. Monitoring and Support:

- The school counselor or designated staff member will monitor the academic progress of students who have been granted exemptions to ensure they are on track to meet the remaining graduation requirements.
- Additional academic support and resources will be provided as needed to help the student succeed.

Equity and Inclusion Considerations:

- All exemption decisions shall be made with an emphasis on educational equity, ensuring that no student is unfairly denied the opportunity to graduate due to systemic barriers.
- Schools shall actively identify students who may be eligible for exemptions and provide clear communication regarding their rights.

- Data on exemption approvals and denials shall be monitored and reviewed periodically to assess equity and effectiveness.

Review and Evaluation:

- The implementation of this process will be reviewed annually by the Superintendent or designee to ensure it meets the needs of students and aligns with the intent of AB 2251.
- Feedback from students, educational rights holders, and staff will be considered in the review process.

References:

AB 2251 (Connolly)

Education Code § 51225.3

Education Code § 51225.1

Education Code § 51225.31

This Administrative Regulation ensures that the Graduation Requirements Exemptions Policy is implemented consistently, equitably, and in alignment with the intent of AB 2251.