Graduation Requirements—Options

Charter Alternative Programs

El Dorado County Office of Education

Charter Alternative Programs serves a wide spectrum of students in El Dorado County, including those students who are the most "at-risk" for not graduating along with students who matriculate into some of the finest Universities in the world. Included are the graduation options available to our students.

Quick Reference:

- Foster Youth—SB 167: 130 credits

- California High School Proficiency Exam– CHSPE : 16 yrs of age or after sophomore year. Math and English tests given in October, March and (often) June

- General Education Diploma/General Education Development Test—G.E.D. : within 60 days of 18th birthday Exam given online at Pearson VUE testing center

- Adult Education Diploma: 200 credits

- High School Diploma: 240 credits

Assembly Bill AB 167—Diploma for Foster Youth

Guiding Principles: California sets minimum high school graduation requirements. However, school districts may require pupils to complete additional coursework to graduate from high school. Foster youth who are forced to transfer high schools may be required to complete different and/or additional local graduation requirements in their new school district. Often, they cannot complete these requirements within four years of high school.

Pupils in foster care forced to transfer after their second year of high school should be able to graduate with their class if they have completed the state graduation requirements, if they would not reasonable be able to complete additional local graduation requirements within four years of high school.

California Minimum Guidelines for Graduation - 130 credits

California requires pupils to complete all of the following one-year courses, unless otherwise specified, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. *EC 51225.3a*

• 30 credits: Three courses in English

• 20 credits: Two courses in Math*,* including one year of Algebra 1, unless previously completed in grades k-8

• 20 credits: Two courses in Science, including Biological and Physical Sciences

• 30 credits: Three courses in Social Studies, including United States History, World History, a one-semester course in American Government and Civics, and a one-semester course in Economics

• 10 credits: One course in Visual/Performing Arts or Foreign Language. American Sign Language qualifies as a foreign language

• 20 credits: Two courses in Physical Education , unless exempted.

Who Qualifies:

SB 167 allows for certain students to qualify for a High School Diploma which meets the minimum guidelines stated above. A student must satisfy each of the following five criteria to be eligible to graduate pursuant to AB 167.

1) The youth must be a pupil in foster care.

2) The youth must have transferred schools after his/her second year of high school. (this may be determined by either credits earned or length of enrollment).

3) The youth must complete all California graduation requirements as listed above.

4) The district must find that the youth is not reasonably able to complete the additional local graduation requirements within four years of high school.

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5) The youth's educational rights holder must determine that it is in the youth's best interest to graduate under AB 167.

Note: Youth have a right to remain in high school for a fifth year if they can reasonable complete all local graduation requirements by the end of the additional year.

Graduation by Exam:

California High School Proficiency Exam (CHSPE) and General Education Diploma (GED)

CHSPE

The California High School Proficiency Exam is a testing program established by California Law (EC 48412). If eligible to take the test, a student can earn the legal equivalent of a high school diploma. There are two sections of the CHSPE: an English-Language Arts section and a Mathematics section. If a student passes both sections, he/she will be awarded a "**Certificate of Proficiency"** by the California State Board of Education.

Federal agencies are not bound by State laws, however students who pass the CHSPE are eligible for federal civilian employment and Federal Student financial Aid. All persons and institutions subject to California law that require a high school diploma for any purpose must accept the certificate as satisfying the requirement.

For a minor to be exempt from attending school, the student who has earned a Certificate of Proficiency must also have verified permission from a parent/guardian to stop attending school.

A student who has earned a Certificate may also continue in his/her local high school to pursue a diploma or further education.   Dropping out of school while awaiting results of the tests is unlawful for those under 18 years old.

Eligibility:
A student may take the CHSPE if he/she is:
• At least 16 years old, or
• Have been enrolled in the tenth grade for one academic year or longer, or
• Will complete one academic year of enrollment in the tenth grade at the end of the semester prior to the test.

The Tests—A total of 3 1/2 hours of testing time is provided for both sections of the test.

English Language Arts Section: This consists of two subtests, Language and Reading. Both subtests must be passed. The Language subtest has 48 multiple choice questions and one writing task. The Reading subtest has 54 reading comprehension questions and 30 vocabulary questions, all multiple choice. If a students passes one part, he/she will not need to retake that part on subsequent attempts.

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Mathematics Section: This section consists of 50 multiple choice questions which include:

- number sense and operations (9 questions)
- relationships, algebra, and patterns (15 questions)
- data, statistics, and probability (12 questions)
- geometry and measurement (14 questions)

Registration : Students must register for the CHSPE online at the CHSPE website. There are normally two times per year that the tests are given , In October and in March.   Often an additional test is offered in June, but that will vary year to year.   Test dates, costs, and deadlines are posted on the CHSPE website.

Students who pass one section of the test, but not the other do not need to retake the section passed and may retake the unpassed section at the next testing opportunity.

GED

The General Education Diploma, or General Education Development Test, is available for students who are within 60 days of their 18th birthday, or older. This is a nationally designed test that is accepted as an equivalent to a high school diploma similar to the CHSPE, but also qualifies for all states.   Students looking for specific career paths such as the military, law enforcement, and public service, should contact those organizations directly to see if there are any restrictions to employment.

The GED tests underwent major updates in 2015 and all tests are now done online at a Pearson VUE testing center.   The El Dorado County Office of Education hosts a Pearson VUE testing center on our 6767 Green Valley Road, Placerville site.   To register, you must start at the GED website: www.GEDcomputer.com.

The Tests: There are five tests as part of the GED. Students who pass one section do not need to repeat that section should they need to retake the test.

- Reasoning Through Language Arts: (2 sections)
       Both a Reading Comprehension and Writing component
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Science
- Social Studies

Eligibility:
- 18 years or older or with 60 days of your 18th birthday
- You are 17 years of age and have been out of school for at least 60 consecutive days, and provide a letter of request from the military, a postsecondary educational institution, or a prospective employer.

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Note: if you are 17 when you take the test, you will not receive the equivalency certificate until your 18th birthday.

Adult Education Diploma

Adult Ed Diplomas may be granted by the El Dorado County Office of Education. Students must be 18 years of age or older.

Students currently enrolled in one of Charter Alternative Program's schools are eligible to complete their Adult Education Diploma requirements without having to transfer to Adult Ed first.   Students who have turned 18 who disenroll from Charter Community School, Charter Career Prep, or Charter Connections Academy, are placed first in line to enroll in the El Dorado County Adult Education program.

Graduation Requirements for an Adult Education Diploma: 200 Credits
• 40 credits: Four Years of English
• 30 credits: Three years of social studies including : 1 year of United States History, 1 year of World History, 1 semester of American Government, and 1 semester of Economics
• 20 credits: Two years of science: 1 year of Physical Science and one year of Life Science
• 10 credits: One year of Creative Arts or a Foreign Language
• 30 credits: Three years of Math, incl. Algebra 1
• 70 credits of Electives
Note: no Physical Education requirement.

EDCOE High School Diploma

This the typical High School Diploma that most people are familiar with . The requirements for graduation are set by the Board of the El Dorado County Office of Education. Students meeting the requirements are granted a High School Diploma.

240 Credits: Requirements include:
• 40 credits : 4 years of English
• 30 credits: 3 years of Math including Algebra 1 unless Algebra 1 was completed in grades k-8.   All students must complete 30 credits of Math even if Alg 1 was completed prior.
• 30 credits Social Studies: 1 year of US History, 1 year of World History, 1 semester of American Government, 1 semester of Economics
• 20 credits: 1 year of Life Science, 1 year of Physical Science
• 10 credits: Creative Arts or Foreign Language
• 20 credits: Physical Education
• 5 credits: Health
• 85 credits: Electives

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Web Links for additional information:

SB 167—Fact Sheet : http://www.cfyetf.org/publications_11_3259084835.pdf

CHSPE: https://www.chspe.net/

GED: http://www.gedtestingservice.com/

GED Alternatives: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/gd/