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## HTH HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION POLICY

### High School Graduation Requirements

Students and parents/guardians will be provided with the graduation requirements upon entering High Tech High. Graduation requirements at High Tech High exceed California's requirements in anticipated preparation for college entrance. Alternate graduation pathways are offered under state law.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PATHWAYS

#### Path 1: High Tech High College Prep Diploma

All courses are taken at High Tech High (unless otherwise approved), and all graduation requirements are met. The standard course of study offered at High Tech High meets the A-G requirements in preparation for college entrance.

#### Path 2A: High Tech High Alternative Diploma

The Governing Board recognizes that students with disabilities may have a course of study that provides them with a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and that modifications to the school's regular course of study may be needed on an individualized basis to provide a FAPE. Under law, each student's IEP or Section 504 team shall determine the appropriate goals, and any individual accommodations for measuring the academic achievement and functional performance of the student on daily instruction and state and district assessments. The IEP or Section 504 team shall also determine the appropriate graduation track for each student with a disability based on the level of individualized accommodations and adaptation documented in the IEP or 504. Program adaptation may include:

- Significant adaptations to the general education curriculum that substantially alter course content in the following academic subjects: (math, English, social studies, science, etc.)
- Grades are based on the student's accomplishments utilizing a modified curriculum and are not reflective of mastery of the college prep general education curriculum
- The student's transcript will not include college prep designations on modified courses
- Teacher notes at grade reporting periods shall document coursework completion utilizing IEP approved course adaptations and modifications.

Students will be receiving a high school diploma. However, the credits earned no longer meet the A-G requirements for entrance to a UC or CSU immediately after graduation.

### **Path 2B: Grandfathered Path**

This pathway is only for transfer students. Students must make-up any failed courses. These students may be excused from particular High Tech High graduation requirements based upon the requirements of their previous school. Students may retake courses to earn a C- or better, in order to meet the High Tech High graduation requirements. Students who transfer with D's on their transcript and do not retake those courses for a C or better, are not eligible for a High Tech High College Prep Diploma. These students will take the typical course load of their peers based on the number of years in attendance at High Tech High. The prescribed coursework will be no more than the number of years for which a student is enrolled at High Tech High. The school college advisor will develop and communicate this plan to parents within the student's first semester at High Tech High.

### **Path 3: Credit Recovery Path**

This pathway is for students with severe credit recovery needs. The minimum requirements are identical to the alternative diploma. Credit recovery students may take remediated courses through an online provider at the discretion of the school counselor. All students will be advised to take UC/CSU-level courses; however, students on this path should be made aware that not all courses will meet UC/CSU requirements and therefore may not qualify them to apply to a four-year university directly after graduation. The college advisor will develop and communicate this plan to parents. The college advisor will also collaborate with the family and HTH team (advisor, director, teachers, and Education Specialist or EL Teacher if applicable) to discuss the necessity of repeating a grade to recover necessary credits.

### **Path 4: Certificate of Completion**

High Tech High shall designate a Certificate of Completion, instead of a high school diploma, if a student with an IEP has met one of these requirements:

- Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Board of Directors; or
- Satisfactorily met his/her IEP goals and objectives during four years of high school as determined by the IEP team; or
- Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction under his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.

The LEA/district shall ensure a student with disabilities who meets the criteria specified above shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a graduating student of a similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate. In addition, the LEA/district shall ensure that the student will continue to have access to special education and related supports and services until the student meets the state criteria to receive a high school diploma or until age 22.

Legal References  
California EC Section 56341-56345  
California EC Section 56390-56392

In compliance with Education Code sections 51225.1 and 51225.2, this is to notify students and their parents/guardians that certain coursework and graduation requirement exemptions are available for eligible students.

Exemptions may apply to:

- Students in foster care
- Students identified as homeless
- Former juvenile court school students
- Students from military families
- Migratory children
- Students participating in a Newcomer Program

If you believe your student may be eligible for an exemption, or if you would like additional information, please contact the school Director of College Advising or School Director for assistance.