GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR COURT AND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Monterey County Board of Education (County Board) recognizes that graduation from high school provides students with opportunities for post secondary education and/or employment. Thus the County Board desires to prepare each student to obtain a diploma of high school graduation. The following are the requirements:

SUBJECT	CREDITS
English	40
Mathematics	20
Science	20
Social Studies	30
Visual/Performing Arts Or Foreign Language	10
Physical Education	20
Electives	80
Total	220

English – 4 courses 40 credits

This County Board of Education policy also adds a required fourth year of English, in keeping with the practice of most districts in the state.

Mathematics – 2 courses 20 credits

A student who completes coursework in grades 7 through 12 that meets or exceeds state academic content standards for Algebra I in less than two courses shall be considered to have met the requirement and shall not be required to complete additional coursework in mathematics. [Education Code (EC) 51224.5]

Science – 2 courses 20 credits, including
Biological and Physical Sciences – 2 courses 20 credits

Biological Science (no lab required)	10
Physical Science (no lab required)	10

This required course of study duplicates the guidelines set forth in Section 51225.3 of the Education Code with the exception of the lab requirement in the Science curriculum. The County Board has waived this requirement due to the difficulty Monterey County Office of Education (MCOE) programs have in attaining the level of apportionment or enrollment to sustain such specialized classes.

Social Studies – 30 credits

Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics; and a one-semester course in economics.

SUBJECT	CREDITS
World History, Culture And Geography	10
U. S. History	10
U. S. Government	5
Economics	5

Visual/Performing Arts (or Foreign Language) – 10 credits

One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language or American Sign Language.

Physical Education – 20 credits

Two courses in physical education, unless the student has been exempted pursuant to EC 51241.

Anyone unable to meet the requirements for Physical Education may petition the Monterey County Superintendent of Schools to grant an exemption from courses in Physical Education, as provided in EC Section 51241.

Because the prescribed course of study may not accommodate the needs of some students, the County Board shall provide alternative means for the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

In order to qualify for graduation, a student in MCOE court and community schools will have to have earned a minimum of 220 semester units and must receive a passing score on the California High School exit exam.

High School Exit Exam

Each student completing grade 12 shall successfully pass the state exit examinations in language arts and mathematics as a condition of high school graduation. Students may take the exit examination in grade 9. Students shall take the exit examination in grade 10 and may take the examination during each subsequent administration until each section of the examination has been passed. [EC 60851]

Supplemental instruction shall be offered to any student who does not demonstrate "sufficient progress," as defined in County Board policy, toward passing the exit examination. [EC 37252, 60851]

The course requirements as outlined above are consistent with two major goals of MCOE programs:

1. To provide educational opportunities to students referred to this agency based on special needs that could not be met at the district level, and
2. To enable those students to return to and participate in programs at the local school district.

In line with these goals, the County Board of Education has established graduation requirements to reflect as closely and appropriately as possible the requirements that EC Section 51225.3 places on all school districts in California.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35186	*Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures*
37252	*Supplemental instructional programs*
37254	*Supplemental instruction based on failure to pass exit exam by end of grade 12*
37254.1	*Required student participation in supplemental instruction*
47612	*Enrollment in charter school*
48200	*Compulsory attendance*
48412	*Certificate of proficiency*
48430	*Continuation education schools and classes*
48645.5	*Acceptance of coursework*
49701	*Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*
51224	*Skills and knowledge required for adult life*
51224.5	*Algebra instruction*
51225.3	*Requirements for graduation*
51225.5	*Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students*
51228	*Graduation requirements*
51240-51246	*Exemptions from requirements*
51250-51251	*Assistance to military dependents*
51410-51412	*Diplomas*
51420-51427	*High school equivalency certificates*
51450-51455	*Golden State Seal Merit Diploma*

51745 Independent study restrictions
52378 Supplemental school counseling program
56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement, special education
60850-60859 High school exit examination
66204 Certification of high school courses as meeting university admissions criteria

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
1600-1651 Graduation of students from grade 12 and credit toward graduation

COURT DECISIONS
O'Connell v. Superior Court (Valenzuela), (2006) 141 Cal.App.4th 1452

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