

ALTERNATIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION**Definitions**

A *semester period* is one period of 40 to 60 minutes of instructional time per week throughout one semester of at least 17 weeks, or a minimum of 12 clock hours of instructional time provided during the academic year or in summer school. While the content to be covered is planned within these time frames, a student may be granted one semester period of credit even though the student spends less than the aforementioned amount of time in completing the necessary work. (5 CCR 1600)

Private Instruction

A student who is regularly enrolled and in attendance at a high school shall receive credit toward high school graduation for private instruction under the following conditions: (5 CCR 1631)

1. The instruction entails fields and subjects included in the high school's courses of study and curricula.
2. The student demonstrates his/her capabilities at the beginning and at the end of the period of private instruction by examination(s) given under the school's supervision, thereby showing that he/she has made progress in learning satisfactory to the school.

Correspondence Instruction

Prior to registering for a correspondence course, the student or his/her parent/guardian shall obtain verification from the Superintendent or designee that the course is essentially equivalent to the high school curriculum and meets district graduation requirements. The number of semester credits assigned to the course shall be determined before the student begins coursework.

The district shall grant credit toward graduation for correspondence instruction if all of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 51740, 51741; 5 CCR 1633)

1. The correspondence instruction is provided by the University of California, or other university or college in California accredited for teacher training, in subjects included within or related to the student's course of study.
2. The student is, for good reason, unable to take the course of study offered in the school.
3. The Superintendent or designee determines the number of semester periods to be credited for successful completion of a particular correspondence course.
4. No more than 40 total semester periods of correspondence instruction are credited to a student towards graduation.

ALTERNATIVE CREDITS TOWARD GRADUATION (continued)

Military Service and Training

Credit toward graduation shall be granted for military service and training received while in the military service of the United States, within the maximum limits established in 5 CCR 1634. A person is eligible for this credit if he/she is either: (Education Code 51440; 5 CCR 1634)

1. A former member of the Armed Forces who is a California resident and who has received an honorable discharge
2. A member of the Armed Forces who is a California resident and was a California resident on the date he/she entered the Armed Forces

The Superintendent or designee shall keep a permanent record of the credit allowed for military service or training. (5 CCR 1634)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

Private Foreign Language Instruction

The district shall grant credit for foreign language studies successfully completed in a private school and shall apply the credit toward meeting any foreign language requirement prescribed for grades 9-12, provided that all of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 51243-51245; 5 CCR 1632)

1. The courses are in languages designated in Education Code 51244.
2. The student is regularly enrolled or applying to the district in grades 9-12.
3. The student or his/her parent/guardian applies in writing for the credit, specifies the private school attended and the amount and level of credit requested, and submits a transcript or other documents from the private school showing that the student successfully completed the course.
4. The amount of credit sought equals at least one semester's work.
5. The principal or designee determines that the student's achievement is equivalent to that expected of a student of comparable ability taking the same or similar instruction in district schools. This determination shall be based upon the private school's report of a test developed by the private school in cooperation with the district or, if the private school is located outside the district, the principal or designee may use a test given by a public school or other evidence which he/she deems appropriate.