

VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION NO. 6173.3

ADOPTED: 05/20/24

CLASSIFICATION: Instruction

REVISED:

SUBJECT: Education for Juvenile Court School Students

The County Superintendent or designee shall collaborate with the school districts under the jurisdiction of the Ventura County Office of Education and the county probation department to facilitate the transition of students from a juvenile court school into the regular schools of the student's district of residence. Such collaboration may include, but not be limited to, the development of data-sharing systems, communication strategies, and other structures that aid in the enrollment, placement, and continuous educational progress of such students.

ENROLLMENT

A former juvenile court school student transferring into a regular district school shall be immediately enrolled in the school, and shall not be denied enrollment solely on the basis of the student's arrest, adjudication by a juvenile court, formal or informal supervision by a probation officer, detention in a juvenile facility, enrollment in a juvenile court school, or other contact with the juvenile justice system.

TRANSFER OF COURSEWORK AND CREDITS

When a student enrolled in a juvenile court school transfers into another VCOE school or program or a district school, the juvenile court school shall send to the new school of enrollment an official transcript from the transferring school or district which reflects full and partial credits and grades earned by the student and includes:

1. A determination of the days of enrollment and/or seat time, if applicable, for all full and partial credits earned based on any measure of full or partial coursework being satisfactorily completed

Partial coursework satisfactorily completed includes any portion of an individual course, even if the student did not complete the entire course

2. Separate listings for credits and grades earned at each school and local educational agency so it is clear where credits and grades were earned

3. A complete record of the student's seat time, including both period attendance and days of enrollment

VCOE shall transfer the credits and grades from the transferring school's transcript onto an official VCOE transcript in the same manner as described in Item #2, above.

If the Principal or designee has knowledge that the transcript from the transferring school may not include certain credits or grades, the Principal or designee shall contact the prior school within two business days to request that the full or partial credits be issued, which shall then be issued and provided by the prior school within two business days of the request.

VCOE shall accept and issue full credit for any coursework that the former juvenile court school student has satisfactorily completed while attending another public school, a charter school, a school in a country other than the United States, or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school.

If the entire course was completed, VCOE shall not require the student to retake the course.

If the entire course was not completed at the previous school, the student shall be issued partial credit for the coursework completed and shall be required to take the uncompleted portion of the course. However, a student may be required to retake the portion of the course completed if the County Superintendent or designee, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. Whenever partial credit is issued to a former juvenile court school student in any particular course, the student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course.

Partial credits shall be awarded in accordance with AR 6146.11 - Alternative Credits Towards Graduation.

In no event shall VCOE prevent a former juvenile court school student from taking or retaking a course to meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University or the University of California.

APPLICABILITY OF GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A student who transfers from a juvenile court school to a VCOE school or program or school district shall generally be expected to complete all courses required by Education Code 51225.3 and to fulfill any additional graduation requirements prescribed by the Governing Board.

However, when a student who has completed the second year of high school transfers from a juvenile court school into a VCOE school or program, the student shall be exempted from all VCOE-adopted coursework and other VCOE-established graduation requirements, unless VCOE makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time

to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school. Within 30 calendar days of the student's transfer, the County Superintendent or designee shall notify the student, the student's educational rights holder, and the student's social worker or probation officer of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for it. If the County Superintendent or designee fails to provide this notification, the student shall be eligible for the exemption once notified, even if the notification occurs after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student.

To determine whether a student is in the third or fourth year of high school, VCOE shall use either the number of credits the student has earned as of the date of the transfer, the length of school enrollment, or, for a student with significant gaps in school attendance, the student's age as compared to the average age of students in the third or fourth year of high school, whichever qualifies the student for the exemption.

If a former juvenile court school student was not properly notified of an exemption, declined the exemption, or was not previously exempted, the student or the student's educational rights holder may request the exemption and the Superintendent or designee shall exempt the student within 30 days of the request. A student may request the exemption even if the student is no longer a juvenile court student.

When the County Superintendent or designee determines that a student who transferred into a VCOE school or program is reasonably able to complete VCOE-established graduation requirements by the end of the student's fourth year of high school, the student shall not be exempted from those requirements. Within 30 calendar days of the following academic year, the student shall be reevaluated based on the student's course completion status at the time, to determine if the student continues to be reasonably able to complete the VCOE-established graduation requirements in time to graduate by the end of the student's fourth year of high school. Written notice as to whether the student then qualifies for the exemption shall be provided to the student, the student's educational rights holder, and if applicable, to the student's social worker or probation officer.

If, upon reevaluation, it is determined that the former juvenile court student is not reasonably able to complete the VCOE-established graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student's fourth year of high school, the County Superintendent or designee shall provide the student with the option to receive an exemption from VCOE-established graduation requirements or stay in school for a fifth year to complete the VCOE-established graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, or if under 18 years of age, the student's educational rights holder, and shall provide notifications in accordance with Education Code 51225.1.

When a former juvenile court student is exempted from VCOE-established graduation requirements, the County Superintendent or designee shall consult with the student and the student's educational rights holder about the following:

1. Discussion of how any requirements that are waived may affect the student's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
2. Discussion and information about other options available to the student, including, but not limited to, a fifth year of high school, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Consideration of the student's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption

VCOE shall not require or request a former juvenile court student to transfer schools in order to qualify for an exemption and shall not grant any request made by a former juvenile court student, the student's educational rights holder, or the VCOE liaison on behalf of the student, for a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption.

The County Superintendent or designee shall not require a former juvenile court student who is eligible for an exemption from VCOE-established graduation requirements and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at the school, to accept the exemption or be denied enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible, including courses necessary to attend an institution of higher education, regardless of whether such courses are required for statewide graduation requirements.

If a former juvenile court student is exempted from VCOE-established graduation requirements, the exemption shall not be revoked. Additionally, the exemption shall continue to apply after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student while still enrolled in the school or if the student transfers to another school, including a charter school, or school district.

The County Superintendent or designee shall not require or request that a former juvenile court student who is exempted from VCOE-established graduation requirements and who completes the statewide coursework requirements before the end of the fourth year of high school, and would otherwise be entitled to remain in school, graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

Upon making a finding that a former juvenile court student is reasonably able to complete VCOE-established graduation requirements within the fifth year of high school, the County Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Consult with the student and, if under 18 years of age, the student's educational rights holder, of the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the VCOE established graduation requirements and how that will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
2. Consult with and provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
3. Upon agreement with the student or with the student's educational rights holder if under 18 years of age, permit the student to stay in school for a fifth year to complete the VCOE-established graduation requirements

When a juvenile court student who has completed the second year of high school transfers into the VCOE or between school and programs in the VCOE, and the County Superintendent or designee determines that the student is not reasonably able to complete the VCOE-established graduation requirements within the student's fifth year of high school but is reasonably able to complete the statewide coursework requirements within the fifth year of high school, the student shall be exempted from all VCOE-established graduation requirements and be provided with the option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide requirements. In such situations, the County Superintendent or designee shall consult with the student and the student's educational rights holder, regarding the following:

1. The student's option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete statewide coursework requirements
2. The effect of waiving the VCOE-established requirements and remaining in school for a fifth year on the student's postsecondary education or vocation plans, including the ability to gain admission to an institution of higher education
3. Other options available to the student, including, but not limited to, possible credit recovery, and any transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
4. The student's academic data and any other information relevant to making an informed decision on whether to accept the exemption and option to remain in school for a fifth year to complete the statewide coursework requirements

DIPLOMA FOR A JUVENILE COURT SCHOOL STUDENT

If a student completes the graduation requirements of the school district of residence while being detained, the school district of residence shall issue to the student a diploma from the school the student last attended, unless the County Superintendent issues the diploma.

If a student completes the statewide coursework requirements for graduation while attending a juvenile court school, VCOE shall issue to the student a diploma of graduation and shall not require the student to complete coursework or other requirements that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements. However, the VCOE shall notify the student, the educational rights holder of the juvenile court student, and the student's social worker or probation officer of all of the following:

1. The student's right to a diploma for completing the statewide coursework requirements
2. How taking coursework and other requirements adopted by the County Board or continuing education upon release from the juvenile detention facility will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution
3. Information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges
4. The option of the student or the student's educational rights holder if under 18 years of age to defer or decline the diploma and take additional coursework pursuant to #2 above

If the County Superintendent or designee fails to provide timely notice, the student shall be eligible for the diploma for completing the statewide coursework requirements once notified, even if that notification occurs after termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student.

When the County Superintendent or designee determines that a juvenile court student who is entitled to a diploma for completing the statewide coursework requirements could benefit from taking coursework and other requirements adopted by the County Board, the County Superintendent or designee shall do both of the following:

1. Inform the student of the option to take coursework and other requirements adopted by the County Board
2. Upon agreement with the student or with the student's educational rights holder if under 18 years of age, permit the student to take coursework and other requirements adopted by the County Board, and to defer the granting of the diploma until the student is released from the juvenile detention facility

Upon the release from a juvenile detention facility of a student who is entitled to a diploma completing the statewide coursework requirements, the student or the student's educational rights holder if under 18 years of age, may elect to decline the issuance of the diploma for the purpose of enrolling the student in a school operated by a local educational agency or charter school to take additional coursework. The County Superintendent or designee shall advise the student or the student's educational rights holder if under 18 years of age, to consider, when deciding whether to elect to decline the diploma, whether the student is highly likely to do all of the following:

1. Enroll in a school operated by a local educational agency or charter school
2. Benefit from continued instruction
3. Graduate from high school

If a juvenile court school student who is entitled to receive a diploma for completing the statewide coursework requirements is not granted a diploma or if the student or the student's educational rights holder if under 18 years of age has previously deferred or declined a diploma the County Superintendent or designee shall grant a diploma if it is requested by the student or the student's educational rights holder if under 18 years of age.

If the student is entitled to a diploma for completing statewide coursework requirements, the eligibility shall not be revoked. Additionally, the right shall continue to apply after the termination of the court's jurisdiction over the student.

NOTIFICATION AND COMPLAINTS

Information regarding the educational rights of former juvenile court school students, as specified in Education Code 51225.1 and 51225.2, shall be included in the annual uniform complaint procedures notification distributed to students, parents/guardians, employees, and other interested parties pursuant to 5 CCR 4622.

Any complaint that VCOE has not complied with requirements regarding the education of juvenile court school students, as specified in Education Code 48645.5 or 48645.7, and of former juvenile court school students, as specified in Education Code 51225.1 or 51225.2, may be filed in accordance with VCOE's procedures in AR 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48645-48650	Juvenile court schools
48853.5	Immediate enrollment
51225.1	Exemption from district graduation requirements
51225.2	Course credits
51225.3	High school graduation requirements

WELFARE & INSTITUTIONS CODE

602	Minors violating law; ward of court
880-893	Wards of dependent children; juvenile homes, ranches and camps

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4600-4670	Uniform complaint procedures
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