

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-006 (REV. 1/2018)

Child Specific Algebra 1 Requirement

# California State Board of Education July 2022 Agenda Item #W-15

## Subject

Request by **Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD)** to waive California *Education Code (EC)* Section 51224.5(b), the requirement that all students graduating in the 2021–22 school year complete a course in Algebra I (or equivalent) to be given a diploma of graduation. The waiver applies to five students with disabilities and is requested on the basis of *EC* Section 56101, the special education waiver authority.

## Waiver Numbers

9-2-2022 Pleasanton Unified School District

## Type of Action

Action, Consent

## Summary of the Issue(s)

Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) requests to waive the requirement that all students graduating in the 2021–22 school year be required to complete a course in Algebra I (or equivalent) to be given a diploma of graduation. The Algebra I waiver would apply to only five students with disabilities and the request is based on the *EC* Section 56101, the special education waiver authority.

## Authority for Waiver

*EC* Section 56101

## Recommendation

* Approval: No
* Approval with conditions: Yes
* Denial: No

The California Department of Education recommends the State Board of Education (SBE) approves, with a condition, the request by the local education agency (LEA) to waive the Algebra I requirement for five students for the 2021–22 graduation year. The condition would require the students to meet all other course requirements stipulated by the governing board of the school district, and *EC* Section 51225.3, in order to receive a high school diploma.

## Summary of Key Issues

For the review of this waiver request, the LEA provided the following documentation for each student:

* Valid copies of the students’ individualized education programs for grades 9 through 12 highlighting the areas of mathematics deficiencies, and how the students’ needs in mathematics were addressed.
* The specific assistance the district provided to the students, including supplementary aids, services, accommodations, test modifications, and supports to attain the diploma-track goal for the algebra requirement.
* A copy of the students’ educational transcripts showing the students have completed all other graduation requirements.

The above documentation was confidentially reviewed by an Education Programs Consultant and approved by an Education Administrator I.

## Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) 9-2-2022

The PUSD submitted waiver requests for five students with disabilities, and provided documentation which suggest the students have attempted to meet the academic requirements to successfully work towards the completion of the Algebra I requirement in grades 9 through 12. However, contributing factors associated with the students’ disabling conditions prevented them from successfully fulfilling this requirement. The PUSD informed the students they are unable to meet or exceed the rigor of the content standards of the Algebra I requirement, as adopted by the SBE, which would result in the students not meeting graduation requirements.

Demographic Information: For school year 2021-22, the PUSD has a student population of 14,084 per DataQuest and is located in a suburban area in Alameda County.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In 2000, *EC* Section 51224.5 was enacted to require students to complete a course in Algebra I, as a condition of receiving a high school diploma. The Algebra I requirement applied to students who were scheduled for graduation beginning in 2003−04. All waiver requests of this type have been granted by the SBE for students with disabilities.

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

There is no statewide fiscal impact of waiver(s) approval.

## Attachment(s)

* **Attachment 1:** Summary Table (1 page)
* **Attachment 2:** Pleasanton Unified School District Waiver 9-2-2022

(2 pages) (Original waiver request is signed and on file in the Waiver Office.)

# Attachment 1: Summary Table

California *Education Code (EC)* Section 56101

| Waiver Number | School District | Period of Request | District’s Request | CDE Recommended | Local Board Approval Date | Penalty Without Waiver |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 9-2-2022 | Pleasanton Unified School District | **Requested:**  January 25, 2022 through February 25, 2022  **Recommended:**  **Requested:**  January 25, 2022 through June 03, 2022 | To waive the Algebra I (or equivalent) graduation requirement for five students to receive a diploma of graduation | Approval, with conditions, to waive the Algebra I (or equivalent) graduation requirement for five students to receive a diploma of graduation | 02/24/2022 | Failure to approve the waiver request may result in the student not meeting graduation requirements |

Created by California Department of Education: June 2022

# Attachment 2: Waiver 9-2-2022 Pleasanton Unified School District

**California Department of Education**

**WAIVER SUBMISSION – Specific**

CD Code: 0175101

Waiver Number: 9-2-2022

Active Year: 2022

Date In: 2/25/2022 10:12:22 AM

Local Education Agency: Pleasanton Unified

Address: 4665 Bernal Ave.

Pleasanton, CA 94566

Start: 1/25/2022

End: 2/25/2022

Waiver Renewal: N

Previous Waiver Number:

Previous SBE Approval Date:

Waiver Topic: Special Education Program

Ed Code Title: Algebra I Requirement for Graduation

Ed Code Section: 51224.5

Ed Code Authority: 56101

Ed Code or *CCR* to Waive: Algebra 1 Requirement for Graduation

Outcome Rationale: Students worked towards Algebra 1 requirements through their IEP goals but did not pass Algebra 1. Students met all other graduation requirements.

Student Population: 14878

City Type: Suburban

Local Board Approval Date: 2/24/2022

Audit Penalty Yes or No: N

Categorical Program Monitoring: N

Submitted by: Mr. Sohail Ahmed

Position: Program Supervisor

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