

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-006 (REV. 1/2018)

Specific Waiver

# California State Board of Education September 2024 Agenda Item #W-13

## Subject

Request by the **Pleasanton Unified School District** to waive California *Education Code* Section 51224.5(b), the requirement that all students graduating in the 2023–24 school year be required to complete a course in Algebra I (or equivalent) to be given a diploma of graduation. The waiver applies to one student with disabilities based on *Education Code* Section 56101, the special education waiver authority.

## Waiver Number

11-2-2024

## Type of Action

Action, Consent

## Summary of the Issue(s)

The Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) requests to waive the requirement that all students graduating in the 2023–24 school year be required to complete a course in Algebra I (or equivalent) to be given a diploma of graduation, for one student with disabilities based on *Education Code* (*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 (CDE) recommends the State Board of Education (SBE) approve the request from the PUSD to waive the requirement to successfully complete a course in Algebra I (or its equivalent) for the 2023–24 graduation year for one student, with the condition the students meets all other course requirements stipulated by the governing board of the school district and California *EC* Section 51225.3, in order to receive a high school diploma.

## Summary of Key Issues

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

* Valid copies of the student’s individualized education programs (IEPs) for grades 9 through 12 highlighting the areas of mathematical deficiencies, and how the student’s needs in mathematics were addressed.
* The specific assistance the district provided to the student which included supplementary aids, services, accommodations, test modifications, and supports to attain the diploma-track goal for the algebra requirement.
* A copy of the student’s educational transcript showing the student has completed all other graduation requirements.

The above documentation was confidentially reviewed and approved by CDE staff, which includes an Education Programs Consultant and a CDE Education Administrator I.

The PUSD submitted waiver requests for one student with disabilities and provided documentation which suggest the student has 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 states that the student is 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:**

The PUSD has a student population of 13,696 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 Specific Waiver Request 11-2-2024 (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, School | Period of Request | District’s Request | CDE Recommendation | Local Board Approval Date | Penalty Without Waiver |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 11-2-2024 | Pleasanton Unified School District | **Requested:**  February 9, 2024, through July 1, 2024  **Recommended:**  **Requested:**  August 1, 2023, through June 30 1, 2024 | To waive the Algebra I (or equivalent) graduation requirement for one student to receive a diploma of graduation | Approval with conditions to waive the Algebra I (or equivalent) graduation requirement for one student to receive a diploma of graduation | 2-8-2024 | Failure to approve the waiver request would result in the student not meeting graduation requirements |

Created by California Department of Education   
September 2024

# Attachment 2: Pleasanton Unified School District Specific Waiver Request 11-2-2024

**California Department of Education**

**WAIVER SUBMISSION – Specific**

CD Code: 0175101

Waiver Number: 11-2-2024

Active Year: 2024

Date In: 2/9/2024 2:34:22 PM

Local Education Agency: Pleasanton Unified

Address: 5758 W Las Positas Blvd.

Pleasanton, CA 94556

Start: 2/9/2024

End: 7/1/2024

Waiver Renewal: No

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 Waiver

Outcome Rationale: Student began freshman year in an SDC Math 1 class, Sophmore year she took SDC Math 2 and SDC Math 3 her Junior year. She took fundamentals of Algebra 1A which is taken over two years. She would have to stay for a 5th year to complete Algebra but has already met all her graduation requirements. The school should have had her start off at SDC Math 2 or began fundamentals of algebra earlier so she could have completed the two years of Algebra.

Student Population: 14084

City Type: Suburban

Local Board Approval Date: 2/8/2024

Audit Penalty Yes or No: No

Categorical Program Monitoring: No

Submitted by: Mr. Soahil Ahmed

Position: Program Supervisor

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