



LCPS Graduation Pathways and Requirements

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Students at LCPS are prepared for college and career through a sequence of rigorous coursework aligned to the UC/CSU A-G Requirements or the requirements of a student's IEP. There are three graduation pathways from a LCPS high school:

- 1) The **LCPS College Preparatory Diploma** signifies completion of all entry requirements for the California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) colleges as well as additional LCPS requirements. The vast majority of LCPS students receive a LCPS College Preparatory Diploma.
- 2) **LCPS State Basic Diploma.** In some specific circumstances, LCPS Students may be eligible for graduation with California Minimum Requirements (pursuant to (California Education Code (EC) Sections 51225.1, 51225.2). In these cases, students receive a LCPS State Basic Diploma, which is a high school degree that does not qualify students for admission to a state university. Students attaining a State Basic Diploma may engage in a customized course of study that exceeds minimum requirements but does not fully meet the requirements for the LCPS College Preparatory Diploma. Students are eligible for a LCPS State Basic Diploma in the following cases:
 - a) Students identified as either foster youth or on probation, who are removed from their homes and transfer high schools after their second year, may graduate and earn a standard high school diploma by completing the minimum state graduation requirements if, at the time of transfer, they cannot reasonably complete additional local school LEA/district requirements within four years of high school.
 - b) Students identified as homeless are exempt from all coursework and other requirements beyond the minimum state graduation requirements.
 - c) In some cases, for qualifying students with disabilities documented in an IEP or Section 504 Plan, a State Basic Diploma may be earned in cases in which the student's disabilities preclude attainment of the College Prep Diploma in alignment with the student's transition plan and postsecondary goals. This recommendation is made by the IEP/504 Team
 - d) Migratory students and newly arrived immigrant students may be excused from all locally adopted coursework and requirements that are supplemental to statewide coursework requirements. This requires approval by the principal with sign off by CAO.
- 3) The **LCPS Certificate of Completion** option is available to students who cannot complete the requirements for a regular high school diploma that LCPS offers. These students are eligible for educational placement and services under their IEP. The COC option does not equal a regular high school diploma. The graduation option that the IEP team chooses shall be documented clearly as part of the Transition Plan, as well as marked on the IEP's offer of Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)/Educational Settings page.

Graduation Pathways: Prescribed Course of Study

	LCPS College Preparatory Diploma 180 A-G Units + 40 additional units(can be A-G or non A-G) = 220 Total Units	LCPS State Basic Diploma (EC Section 51225.3) 130 Units Required	LCPS Certificate of Completion (EC Section 56390)
English	Four years (40 units)	Three years (30 units)	LCPS may award a student with a disability a COC if the following requirements, (a), (b), or (c), are met. (a) The individual has satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the governing board of the school LEA/district in which the individual attended school or the school LEA/district with jurisdiction over the individual and identified in his or her IEP. (b) The individual has satisfactorily met his or her IEP goals and objectives during high school as determined by the IEP program team. (c) The individual has satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction under his or her IEP, and has met the objectives of the statement of transition services.
Math	Three years required (30 units); four years recommended (40 units)	Two years (20 units), including one year of Algebra I (EC Section 51224.5)	
Science	Three years required (30 units), including one year (10 units) of biological science and one year (10 units) of physical science; four years recommended (40 units)	Two years (20 units), including biological and physical sciences	
History	Three years required (30 units) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one semester (5 units) of Ethnic Studies• one year (10 units) of US History and geography• one semester (5 units) of US Government• one semester (5 units) on Economics	Three years (30 units), 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.	
Language other than English	Two years or equivalent required (20 units)	One year (10 units) in visual or performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education/	
Visual and Performing Arts	One year required (10 units)		
Career Technical Education	One year required (10 units required)		
Electives and additional courses	College Preparatory Electives (10 units required)		
Physical	None required.		
		Two years (20 units) ¹ , unless	

¹ Per the Lighthouse High and Lodestar charters, LCPS does not offer physical education courses. To fulfill this requirement, LCPS students may engage in physical education on their own at home (supervised by a parent/guardian) or on campus (under the supervision of a LCPS staff member). In either case, the student will keep a log, signed by parent/guardian and a LCPS staff member, that demonstrates that a student has completed the PE requirement. 45 min, 5x/week is equivalent to one year's worth of PE.

Education		the student has been exempted from the requirements based on EC Section 51241	
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Graduation Pathways: GPA Requirements

	LCPS College Preparatory Diploma	LCPS State Basic Diploma (EC Section 51225.3)	Certificate of Completion (EC Section 56390)
GPA Requirement	Students must hold a minimum weighted cumulative (9-12) Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 in order to obtain a diploma.	There is no minimum GPA for a State Basic Diploma.	There is no minimum GPA for a Certificate of Completion.

Graduation Pathways: LCPS Milestones

	LCPS College Preparatory Diploma	LCPS State Basic Diploma (EC Section 51225.3)	Certificate of Completion (EC Section 56390)
Passage	LCPS students complete a rigorous passage process aligned to the LCPS Graduate Profile. This includes a senior capstone project in their CTE Pathway of choice.	LCPS students complete a rigorous passage process aligned to the LCPS Graduate Profile. Requirements for passage may be adjusted or modified for students receiving a State Basic Diploma.	LCPS students complete a rigorous passage process aligned to the LCPS Graduate Profile. Requirements for passage may be adjusted or modified for students receiving a COC.

Graduation Pathways: Community Service Requirement

	LCPS College Preparatory Diploma	LCPS State Basic Diploma (EC Section 51225.3)	Certificate of Completion (EC Section 56390)
Community Service	<p>Starting with the Class of 2026, students must complete 10 hours of verified community service per year. Service may be completed on-campus or off-campus.</p> <p>LCPS will help provide regular opportunities for students to engage in community service during and after school hours.</p> <p>Community Service Hours Required for Graduation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class of 2026: 10 hours • Class of 2027: 20 hours • Class of 2028: 30 hours • Class of 2029 and beyond: 40 hours <p>*The number of community service hours needed for graduation may be "prorated" for students who transfer into LCPS after 9th grade.</p>	Requirements for community service may be adjusted or modified for students receiving a State Basic Diploma.	Requirements for community service may be adjusted or modified for students receiving a COC.

Determination of Eligibility for COC

Eligibility for COC is determined by IEP teams, which will weigh the following factors in determining whether a student is eligible for a COC.

High School Diploma or Certificate of Completion		
	Diploma	Certificate of Completion
Students' Postsecondary Goals & Personal Gains for Their Futures	The student's employment goals require a diploma; education/training goals require a diploma for eligibility for enrollment and/or financial aid.	The student who set the goal to achieve the certificate needs a meaningful certificate that prepares them for the "next environment."
Academic History	The student has participated in a course of study that meets graduation requirements with/without accommodations or modifications.	The student's course of study focuses on earning a certificate: functional skills, life skills, and vocational and community-access skills.
Tests and Scores	Academic tests are based on grade-level standards.	Academic tests are based on alternate achievement standards.
Transition in the IEP	The student met high school graduation goals. Adequate transition services were provided to prepare for postsecondary goals.	The student met transition goals to earn a certificate of completion.
LCPS Diploma Requirements	The student met LCPS diploma/graduation requirements.	The student did not meet LCPS diploma/graduation requirements.
Graduation Status at Age 18	The student met all criteria to graduate based on LCPS standards and the IEP.	The student needs additional education to prepare for the transition.
Credit Status	Because an LEA/district must provide a FAPE to a student until they earn a high school diploma or reach the age of 22, when a student reaches the age of 18 or 12th grade, an IEP team does not need to automatically consider switching the student's IEP from earning a high school diploma to receiving a COC. IEP teams may consider other viable options for such students, such as staying enrolled beyond the initial four-year graduation date, adult education, community college, or earning a Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED) or industry certification.	Students earning a COC throughout high school and who do not complete the coursework required to earn a diploma can opt to stay in school up to age 22 in transition-age programs.

LCPS shall enter conversations with students/families who may be eligible for a COC by the end of eighth grade, with the caveats that:

- A diploma cannot be denied to students who have earned it, have met all graduation requirements, and have been provided adequate transition services that prepare them for meeting their transition goals.

- Maturity and readiness for adulthood may not be considered in determining eligibility for a COC.

Early Graduation

LCPS students may graduate in 3 years if they complete ALL requirements outlined in their graduation Pathway and attain prior approval from the school Principal, Director of College/Career Success and either the CEO or Chief of Staff. Students must have at least a 3.0 cumulative unweighted GPA by the end of grade 10 to qualify for early graduation. Students on track for early graduation may also participate in designated “Senior Activities” with the 12th-grade class.

Seal of Biliteracy

LCPS recognizes high school graduates who are eligible for The State Seal of Biliteracy. Marked by a gold seal on the diploma or transcript, the State Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English. In order to qualify for the California State Seal of Biliteracy, students must meet the requirements designated by the California Department of Education.

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma

The Golden State Seal Merit Diploma (GSSMD) recognizes public school graduates who have demonstrated their mastery of the high school curriculum in at least six subject areas, four of which are English language arts, mathematics, science, and US History, with the remaining two subject areas selected by the student. The GSSMD is awarded jointly by the California State Board of Education and the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Participation in Graduation and Senior Activities

Graduation is defined as the opportunity to walk in the graduation ceremony, receive a diploma from Lighthouse, and participate in senior celebratory events (including prom, senior awards night, senior class trip, grad night, etc). If the above criteria are not met, a student will not participate in any senior activities, including the graduation ceremony, nor will they receive a diploma.

A student with disabilities who meets the criteria for a COC is eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which students of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate. Students with disabilities who do not meet the requirements to earn a diploma or a COC may not participate in graduation/commencement exercises.

During senior year, if any student engages in behavior that is a suspendable offense as defined in LCPS Discipline Policy, the privilege of participating in the graduation ceremony (walking in graduation) and engaging in senior celebratory activities may be revoked.

If a student is passing her/his courses and endures a severe medical hardship or family emergency, certain exceptions may be granted to these policies with approval of the Principal.

Graduation Requirements for Students Attending Nonpublic Schools

Students with disabilities attending nonpublic schools (NPS) must meet the same criteria for graduation as peers attending LCPS. LCPS will work with nonpublic schools to determine the graduation eligibility for students with disabilities placed at nonpublic schools. LCPS evaluates the student’s transcript to verify the student’s eligibility for completion of courses leading to either a high school diploma or a COC.