

# High School Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2021

Lodi Unified School District Board Report  
03/30/2021  
Presented by: Jeff Palmquist

# Executive Summary

- LUSD currently requires 230 credits for graduation. Our credit requirements exceed the state minimum.
- Due to the global COVID-19 crisis, the board modified graduation requirements for the senior class of 2020 by reducing the requirement to 210 credits.
- As well, the board reduced the four-year English requirement to follow the state minimum requirement of three years.
- As a result, the 2020 graduation rate was 87.9%. In 2019, it was 89.9%. In 2018, it was 85.9%.
- Staff report concerns about the number of 2021 seniors who are off-track.
- Any modification to the graduation requirement requires board action.
- At the March 2 board meeting, the board gave consensus to bring the requirements back as an action item.

# California Graduation Requirements

To receive a high school diploma, students must fulfill state and district graduation requirements. State-mandated graduation course requirements (the state minimums) follow:

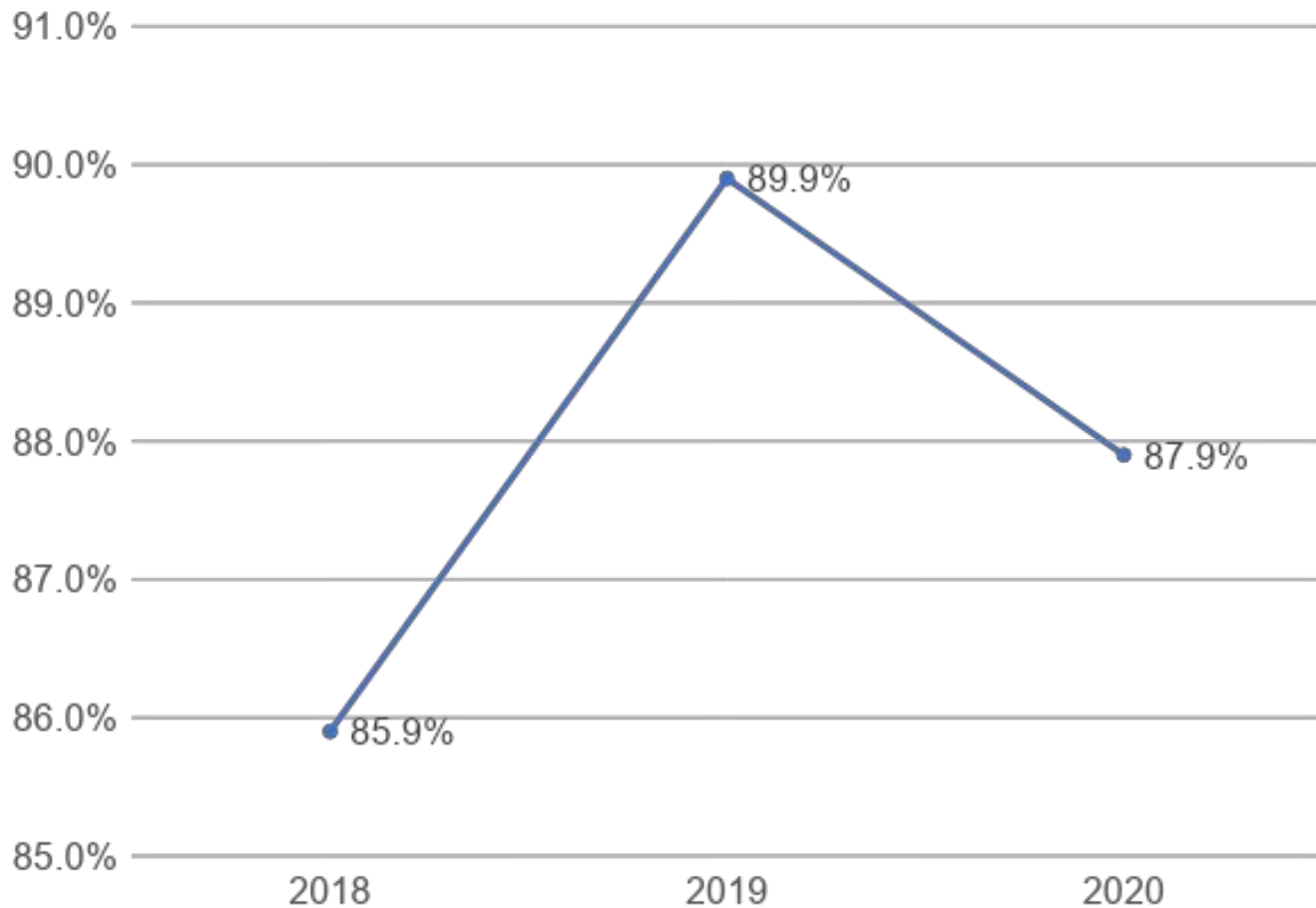
- Three years of English
- Two years of mathematics (including Algebra I)
- Three years of social science (including U.S. history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; one semester of American government; and one semester of economics)
- Two years of science (including biology and physical science)
- Two years of physical education
- One year of foreign language or visual and performing arts or commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical education. For purpose of satisfying the minimum course requirement, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in foreign language

Students who successfully complete Algebra I in middle school must still complete a minimum of two years of mathematics in high school. Recognizing that these 13 courses of preparation are state minimum requirements, local school boards often set local graduation requirements that exceed the state-mandated requirements. (Please refer to the Testing section for information on two methods of earning a high school diploma or its equivalent: the California High School Proficiency Examination and the General Educational Development test.)

# LUSD Graduation Requirements

- 1) Students must earn 230 semester units of credit
- 2) The course of study will include the following listed courses:
  - a) Four one-year courses of English 40 units
  - b) Two one-year courses of Science, including biological 20 units and physical sciences
  - c) Two one-year courses of Mathematics taken in grades 9-12 20 units
    - i) Successful completion of a study of mathematics that meets or exceeds the content standards for Algebra I in grades 8-12. This meets the Algebra graduation requirement.
    - ii) Completion, prior to grade 9, of algebra coursework that meets or exceeds state academic content standards shall satisfy the algebra coursework requirement, but shall not exempt a student from the requirement to complete two mathematics courses in grades 9-12.
  - d) Three one-year courses of Social Studies, including 35 units United States History and Geography; World History, Culture and Geography; American Government, Civics, and Economics, and a one-semester freshman requirement Course in World Geography or Family Living
  - e) One one-year course of Fine Arts units (visual or performing) 10 units or Foreign Language
  - f) Two one-year courses of Physical Education, (unless the 20 units student has been exempted pursuant to Education Code provisions)
  - g) 9th Grade Only: Board-approved course or combination of courses to equal 10 credits designed specifically for 9th grade students. This does not apply to transfer students after the 9th grade.

## LUSD Dashboard Graduation Rates



# Recommendation

1. Staff recommends the board lower the total number of graduation credits required for the class of 2021 to 210 credits.
2. Further, staff recommends the board consider making the same modifications as last year by requiring the state minimum of the three years of English as opposed to the district minimum of four years of English for the class of 2021.