

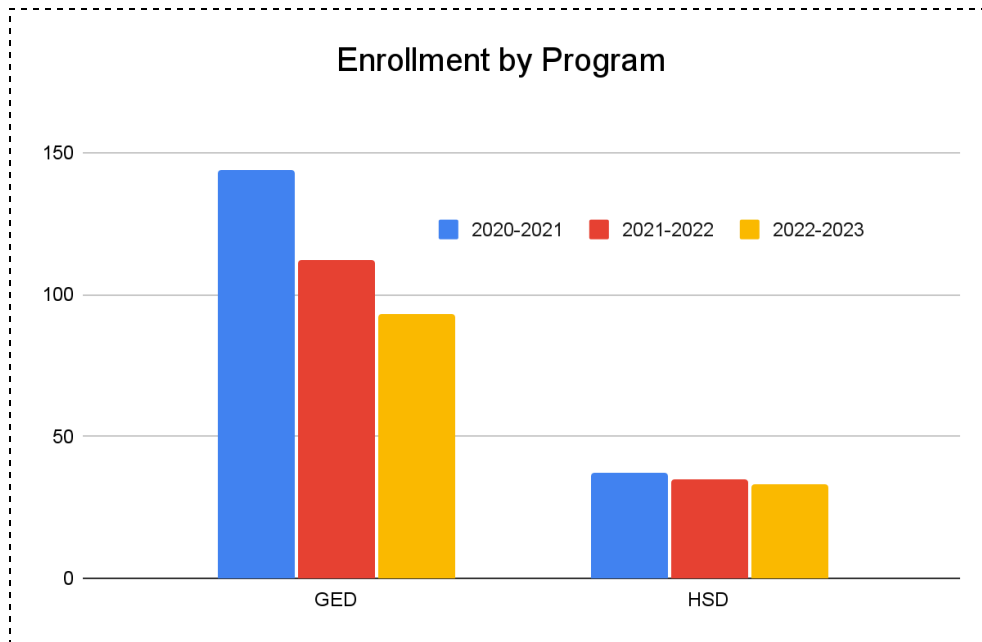
## Reduce Credit Requirements for MVLA Adult School HSD Program

### **Proposal**

In order to remove barriers and help *adult learners* advance towards their goal of earning a high school diploma, the MVLA Adult School is proposing a reduction in the total number of credits required to obtain the *adult high school diploma* in the MVLA UHSD. We propose to reduce the number of credits required from 200 to 150, starting with the 2024-25 school year.

### **Data Analysis**

Enrollment in the High School Diploma (HSD) program at the MVLA Adult School has slightly declined in the last 3 years even though census data shows 10.7% of [adults age 25+ in Santa Clara County do not have a HSD or High School Equivalency \(HSE\)](#). Also included for reference is the [Nationwide Census Data \(2021\)](#).



Based on an analysis of enrollment trends and a review of similar programs in the area, we believe the slight decline in enrollments can be partially attributed to the steep credit requirements of MVLA Adult School. Compared to other adult schools in our region, MVLA Adult School requires *50-70 more credits* for graduation. Having a higher credit requirement can create an added barrier for students. The current model can unintentionally “harm” students by creating unnecessary delays in obtaining a California high school diploma.

Presently, MVLA Adult School students are required to complete *50-70 more credits* compared to neighboring adult schools. This steep credit requirement can prolong an adult HSD student's course of study by another 1-2 years. As a result, adult students lose motivation to persist in the program. This delay can also create hardships for those with financial barriers who need to work in order to sustain themselves and their families. Not having a HS diploma closes off access to important opportunities such as grants and scholarships, post secondary education, CTE pathways, and career advancement.

**Current Model**

MVLA compared to other local adult schools

- **MVLA AS - currently 200**
- [FUHSD AS](#) - 180 credits (currently working on trying to reduce requirement to 150 credits)
- PAAS - no HSD program
- [East Side Adult Ed](#) - 150 credits
- [Silicon Valley Adult Ed](#) - 150 credits
- [Santa Clara Adult Ed](#) - 150 credits
- [Hayward Adult School](#) - 140 credits
- [Sequoia Adult School](#) - 150 credits
- [San Mateo Adult & Career Ed](#) - 150 credits
- [California minimum](#) - 130 credits

With the exception of the Fremont Union High School District Adult School, who is also currently working to reduce credit requirements, all local adult schools require 150 or less credits to earn a California high school diploma.

**New MVLA Adult School HSD Graduation Requirement Model**

MVLA Adult School is proposing credit reductions in areas that will *not* impact the high standards of our district. *Core subject requirements will remain unchanged.* Electives can be reduced by 40 credits. Arts/World Languages requirements can be reduced by 10 credits since a large percentage of adult learners can speak another language. In total, the MVLA Adult School will require adult learners to earn 150 credits in order to receive a high school diploma from the MVLA district.

	CA minimum	<b>MVLA AS</b>	FUHSD AS	Silicon Valley Adult Ed	Santa Clara Adult Ed
English	30	<b>40</b>	40	40	40
Math	20	<b>20</b>	20	20	20
Social	30	<b>35</b>	30	30	30

Science					
Science	20	<b>20</b>	20	20	20
Arts/World Languages	10	<b>10 (-10)</b>	20	10	10
Electives	–	<b>20 (-40)</b>	50	30	27.5
Health	–	<b>5</b>	–	–	2.5
PE	20	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>150 (-50)</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>

**Rationale**

1. The MVLA Adult School is keeping the core subject requirements the same as the district to ensure adult learners are held to the same high standards as a traditional student in the district.
2. The overall credit requirements are reduced to stay in line with local adult schools. This brings parity with other school districts and removes a barrier that would require adult learners to spend a longer time to complete a HS diploma with MVLA Adult School.
3. Arts/World Languages and Electives requirements were reduced due to a lack of variety of course offerings for adult learners. Students who wish to pursue more credits than the required amounts can still do so.

Instead of accepting adult students who are deficient in 50 credits or fewer for the Adult HSD program, we will be accepting adult learners who are 30 credits or fewer deficient with the new 150 credits graduation requirement. The proposed changes will help adult students to advance towards their goal of earning a high school diploma. Any adult who doesn't graduate by June 2024 will have the opportunity to have a credit re-evaluation done according to the new credit requirements in the Fall of 2024.

**Expected Outcomes**

- Enrollment in the HSD program will increase
- Adult learners will advance towards their goals of college and career in a shorter amount of time
- An increase in adult learners earning their HS diploma instead of opting for the GED
- An increase in adult learner persistence in the program
- Graduates will be eligible for grant and scholarship opportunities that will allow them to advance to CTE pathways, post secondary education, or career goals