

**DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS**

Although proficiency standards adopted for regular educational programs may be appropriate for students enrolled in special education program, differential standards and assessments shall be adopted for special education students who are not able to attain the district’s regular proficiency standards.

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team shall determine whether a student with exceptional needs has the abilities to attain the district’s regular proficiency standards with appropriate educational services and support. When necessary, the IEP team shall develop differential proficiency standards appropriate to the students’ needs and potential. These differential standards shall be included in the students’ individualized education program.

No student shall be classified as eligible for differential standards of proficiency for the purpose of circumventing the legal requirement to maintain academic eligibility for extracurricular or co-curricular activities. (Education Code 35160.5).

Special education students may earn a "Certificate of Completion" in lieu of a regular diploma if they meet requirements as specified by their IEP Team. Students earning a "Certificate of Completion" will participate in graduation ceremonies and receive their certificate in the same manner as non-disabled diploma students.

**Legal Reference:**

EDUCATION CODE

35160.5	Extracurricular activities; differential standards
51215	Proficiency standards in basic skills
56000	Education of individuals with exceptional needs
56341	Individualized education program team
56345	Elements of the IEP

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3069	Graduation
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