

Board of Education Policy

CREDENTIALS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

1. Students with disabilities shall be afforded appropriate opportunities to earn a local diploma, Regents diploma, or Regents diploma with honors or Regents diploma with an advanced designation according to the requirements then in effect.
2. A student with a disability may be awarded a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (“Credential”) provided that such student:
 - a. meets the state definition of a student with a severe disability;
 - b. has been recommended by the committee on special education to take the alternate assessment in lieu of a required State assessment and has taken such State Assessment; and
 - c. has been afforded appropriate opportunities to participate in community experiences and development of employment and other instructional activities to prepare the student for post-secondary living, learning and employment.
3. The Credential may be issued at any time after such student has attended school for at least twelve (12) years, excluding kindergarten, or has received a substantially equivalent education elsewhere or at the end of the school year in which such student attains the age of twenty-one (21).
4. The Credential shall be similar in form to the diploma issued by the district, except that there shall appear on such Credential a clear annotation to indicate that the Credential is based on achievement of alternate academic achievement standards.
5. The Credential shall be issued together with a summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance, as required by the Commissioner’s Regulations, that includes documentation of:
 - a. the student's level of achievement and independence for each of the career development and occupational studies learning standards set forth in the Commissioner’s Regulations, including, but not limited to: career development; integrated learning; universal foundation skills that include basic skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, math and functional math; thinking skills; personal qualities; interpersonal skills; use of technology; managing information and resources; systems skills;
 - b. the student's academic skills, as measured by the State assessment for students with severe disabilities; and
 - c. the student's strengths and interests and, as appropriate, other student achievements and accomplishments.

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6. If such student is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, the Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential shall be accompanied by a written statement of assurance that the student named as its recipient shall continue to be eligible to attend the public schools of the district without the payment of tuition, provided that the student continues to reside in the district, until the student has earned a Regents or local high school diploma or until the end of the school year of such student's twenty-first (21) birthday, whichever occurs first.

Students with disabilities, who are not students with severe disabilities under Commissioner's Regulations, may be issued a New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS), pursuant to the requirements of those regulations. The student may pursue a CDOS either in addition to or instead of a high school diploma. The district shall ensure that such students have been provided with appropriate opportunities to earn a high school diploma.

Reference: 8 NYCRR §§ 100.1; 100.5; 100.6; 100.9

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