

## **Graduation Guidelines for Special Education Students**

### Section A - Introduction

It is the policy of the Board of Education that all students who possess an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), must satisfy all requirements of the State of Illinois and Board of Education policy prior to being granted a district diploma unless a student is unable to meet the requirements due to the student's disability. It is the responsibility of the special education student's IEP team to identify when the student, because of his/her disability, is unable to satisfy the graduation requirements and to develop an Alternative Graduation Plan as part of the IEP for each student so identified. The Alternative Graduation Plan shall specify the coursework and level of performance necessary for the student to be granted a diploma. Students with disabilities who satisfy all requirements contained in their Alternative Graduation Plan shall be granted a regular high school diploma.

### Section B - Notification to Parents

At least one year prior to a student's anticipated graduation with a regular high school diploma, both the parent and the student shall receive written notification in conformance with 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 226 that eligibility for public school special education services ends following the granting of a regular high school diploma, and that the parent (or the student if parental rights have transferred to the student in accordance with Illinois School Code and 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 226) may request a review of the recommendation that the student receives a high school diploma.

### Section C - Duration of Services

Students who do not satisfy all graduation requirements of the State of Illinois and Board of Education Policy 7300 or their Alternative Graduation Plan shall be provided continued educational services until the requirements are met, or until their 22nd birthday, unless his or her 22nd birthday occurs during the school year, in which case he or she is eligible for such services until the end of the school year, whichever comes first.

### Section D - Appeal Process

Parents of special education students who disagree with the IEP team's recommendations pertaining to graduation or the continuation of the educational program may request an IEP meeting, and/or seek to address their concerns through the channels described in the Illinois State Board of Education's current "Notice of Procedural Safeguards for Parents/Guardians of Students with Disabilities," in order to resolve the disagreement.

### Section E - Graduation Ceremony Participation

If a student has completed 4 years of high school at the end of a school year but his/her IEP calls for the student to continue to receive special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services, the student may participate in the District's graduation ceremony and receive a certificate of completion. Students with disabilities who have participated in the District's graduation ceremony but have not been awarded a regular high school diploma continue to be eligible to receive a free appropriate public education through the end of the regular school year in which the student reaches their 22nd birthday unless otherwise determined by their IEP team.

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