

Instruction**DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARD FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS**

The Governing Board recognizes that students with disabilities are entitled to a course of study that provides them with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and that modifications to the district's regular course may be needed on an individualized basis to provide FAPE. In accordance with law, each student's individualized education program (IEP) team shall determine the appropriate goals, as well as any appropriate individual accommodations necessary for measuring the academic achievement and functional performance of the student on state and districtwide assessments.

Exemption from District-Established Graduation Requirements

District students shall complete all course requirements for high school graduation as specified in Board Policy 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements. However, a student with a disability may be exempted from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation if the student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31).

1. That the student takes the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the IEP team for each student with a disability shall determine whether the student is eligible for the exemption, and if so, notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. (Education Code 51225.31)

Any such exempted student shall receive a diploma and be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and school activity related to graduation in which a student of similar age without a disability would be eligible to participate. (Education Code 51225.31)

Certificate of Educational Achievement or Completion

Instead of a high school diploma, a student with a disability may be awarded a certificate or document of educational achievement or completion if the student has met one of the following requirements: (Education Code 56390)

1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the board of the district in which the student attended school or the district with jurisdiction over the student as identified in the student's IEP
2. Satisfactorily met the student's IEP goals and objectives during high school as determined by the IEP team

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3. Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in the student's IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services

A student with a disability who meets any of the criteria specified above shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a graduating student of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate. (Education Code 56391)

Legal Reference:**State**

5 CCR 3070

Ed. Code 51225.31

Ed. Code 56341

Ed. Code 56345

Ed. Code 56390-56392

Federal

20 USC 1400-1482

34 CFR 300.1-300.818

34 CFR 300.320

Management Resources

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Website

Description

Graduation

Graduation exemption for students with disabilities

Individualized education program team

Individualized education program contents

Recognition for educational achievement; special education

Description

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Definition of IEP

Description

CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

[U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services](#)[California Department of Education](#)**WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Westminster, California

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