

Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities at Sidney High School are expected to meet the same graduation requirements as their peers, including earning a minimum of **21 credits** and demonstrating **competency and readiness** as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education. These requirements include completion of required coursework and earning **two graduation seals**.

However, the **Individualized Education Program (IEP) team** may determine if a student qualifies for alternate pathways or should be excused from certain testing consequences. This ensures that graduation decisions are equitable and based on the individual needs and demonstrated learning of each student.

Earning Graduation Credit

Students with disabilities can earn credit toward graduation by successfully completing courses aligned with Ohio Learning Standards. These courses may be **accommodated or modified** as outlined in the student's IEP. Students must earn credits in the following areas:

- English Language Arts – 4 credits
- Math – 4 credits
- Science – 3 credits
- Social Studies – 3 credits
- Health – ½ credit
- Physical Education – ½ credit
- Electives – 6 credits

Total: 21 credits

Demonstrating Competency: Standard and Alternative Pathways

Most students demonstrate competency by earning passing scores on the **Algebra I** and **English II** end-of-course exams. However, students with disabilities may access alternative pathways if they are unable to meet this standard after appropriate support and attempts.

If a student does not demonstrate competency through testing, the IEP team may consider the following alternatives:

Alternative Pathways (Competency Alternatives)

1. Remediation and Retesting

Students may participate in intervention and retake the exams.

2. Career-Focused Demonstration of Competency (Choose one option below):

- **Option A:** Complete **two career-focused activities**, including:
 - A Career-Technical Program
 - Work-based learning (e.g., internship or job shadowing)
 - A pre-apprenticeship or acceptance into an apprenticeship program
 - Earning an **Industry-Recognized Credential**
- **Option B:** Demonstrate foundational skills (e.g., WorkKeys or OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal)
- **Option C:** Participate in college readiness experiences such as:
 - Earning a **remediation-free score** on the ACT/SAT
 - Enrolling in **College Credit Plus (CCP)** courses and earning credit
- **Option D: Military enlistment** (proof of enlistment or passing score on ASVAB)

Alternate Assessment and Excusal from State Testing Consequences

Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may take the **Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD)** in place of state assessments. These students must meet specific eligibility criteria, including:

- The team will complete the Alternative Assessment Decision Making Tool as a team to determine if the student has a most significant Cognitive Disability and
- Required extensive direct individualized instruction is provided, aligned to the Ohio Learning Standards - Extended.

The IEP team may determine that a student is **excused from the consequences of end-of-course exams**, based on the criteria outlined in [Ohio Revised Code 3313.61\(L\)](#).

- Students must test, receive remediation and retest in the subject area(s) in which they did not meet the competency score to be excused from consequences of the English Language Arts II and/or Algebra I/Math I assessments or math and/or English Language Arts Alternate Assessment.

- Students with an excusal from the consequences of assessments are excused from demonstrating competency but still must earn at least two seals, one of which must be a state-defined seal. Students excused from the consequences of assessments **do not** inherently earn the Citizenship and Science seals.

Students who take the Alternate Assessment for Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities may soon use their scores on these assessments to demonstrate competency.

Students meet competency on the alternate assessment with a score of **Basic** in English Language Arts and math.

In such cases, the IEP team will document the decision in a PR-01 at an IEP meeting, and the student may graduate upon meeting **modified requirements**.

Graduation Seals

To graduate, students must earn **at least two graduation seals**, demonstrating readiness for college, career, or military pathways. These include:

- **OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal**
- **Industry-Recognized Credential Seal**
- **College-Ready Seal (ACT/SAT or CCP credit)**
- **Military Enlistment Seal**
- **Technology Seal**
- **Community Service Seal**
- **Student Engagement Seal**
- **Fine & Performing Arts Seal**
- **Citizenship and Science Seals**

Seals may be earned through **state-defined or locally-defined** criteria, and accommodations or alternate demonstrations may be considered for students with disabilities.