



Southwest Licking Schools

Graduation Pathways for Students with Disabilities

1. Equal Access to Graduation Credits

Southwest Licking Schools is committed to ensuring that all students, including those with disabilities, have equitable access to the coursework, credits, and opportunities required to earn a high school diploma. In alignment with Ohio's graduation requirements, students with disabilities are expected to meet the same academic credit requirements as their peers without disabilities. This includes successful completion of coursework in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health/Physical Education, and elective credits, as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education.

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and Section 504 Plans provide necessary supports, accommodations, and modifications that enable students with disabilities to access the general curriculum. These supports ensure that students are not held to lower standards but are provided the tools necessary to demonstrate their learning and mastery of Ohio's academic content standards.

Each student's IEP will also clearly reflect the current pathway the student is pursuing toward graduation, ensuring alignment with Ohio's graduation policies and individualized planning.

2. Tracking Student Progress with SchoolLinks

Southwest Licking Schools utilizes SchoolLinks as the official platform to support graduation planning and tracking. SchoolLinks allows students, families, and staff to monitor progress toward completion of state graduation requirements. Key features include:

- Monitoring credit accumulation in real time.
- Tracking completion of Ohio's graduation readiness competencies.
- Documenting student goals, career interests, and postsecondary planning.
- Ensuring that accommodations and supports outlined in IEPs are connected to graduation planning.

This system promotes transparency, collaboration, and accountability among students, families, and educators. By using SchoolLinks, Southwest Licking Schools ensures that students with disabilities remain on track to meet graduation expectations alongside their peers.

3. Graduation Exemptions and Alternate Pathways

Ohio law provides flexibility through graduation exemptions and alternate pathways to support students who may not demonstrate competency through standard assessments. Southwest Licking Schools follows these policies while ensuring that the use of such exemptions is appropriate, individualized, and aligned with state requirements.

Examples include:

- ****IEP Team Decisions****: For students with significant cognitive disabilities, the IEP team may determine appropriate graduation criteria aligned with the student's learning needs. The IEP will specify the pathway the student is following to ensure clarity and accountability.
- ****Alternate Assessments****: Students eligible for the Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (AASCD) can meet graduation requirements through this pathway.
- ****Ohio Graduation Alternatives****: Students may meet requirements by demonstrating career and technical readiness, enlistment in the military, or workforce readiness through industry-recognized credentials and WorkKeys scores.

The district applies these options with fidelity to Ohio's graduation policy, ensuring that each decision is educationally appropriate, well-documented, and in the best interest of the student's postsecondary success.

Southwest Licking Schools affirms that all students, including those with disabilities, are held to high expectations and supported in achieving a meaningful high school diploma. Through equitable access to credits, systematic progress monitoring with SchoolLinks, and the thoughtful application of state-approved exemptions and alternate pathways, our district ensures that students are prepared for life after graduation.