

Instruction

BP 6146.4 (a)

DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS

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 of study 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 required by law and in accordance with Board Policy 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements. However, a student with disabilities who entered ninth grade in the 2022-23 school year or later shall be eligible to 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: (Education Code 51225.31)

1. That the student is eligible to take the alternate assessment 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

Additionally, a student with disabilities who entered grade 10 in the 2022-23 school year or later may be eligible for the same exemption, at the district's discretion, if the student's IEP provides for both of the requirements specified in Item #1 and 2 above (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)

The district's responsibility to provide FAPE shall not terminate when a student with a disability who is exempted from district-adopted graduation requirements participates in graduation activities unless the student's IEP team, which includes the parent/guardian and student, has determined that the student has completed the high school experience. (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)

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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
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)

State

5 CCR 3070: Graduation

Ed Code 60900.2: Students with disabilities graduation reporting

Ed. Code 51225.31-51225.32: Graduation exemption for students with disabilities

Ed. Code 56341: Individualized education program team

Ed. Code 56345: Individualized education program contents

Ed. Code 56390-56392: Recognition for educational achievement; special education

Ed. Code 60640: Alternate assessment eligibility

Federal

20 USC 1400-1482: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

34 CFR 300.1-300.818: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

34 CFR 300.320: Definition of IEP

Management Resources

California Department of Education Publication: Alternate Assessment IEP Team Guidance

California Department of Education Publication: Diploma Pathway for Students who Qualify for the California Alternate Assessment, November 2024

Website: CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services

Website: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Website: California Department of Education

Policy Adopted: 5/13/26

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Orcutt, California