

DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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.

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6159.1 - Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

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 take 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 disabilities 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 his/her IEP

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2. Satisfactorily met his/her 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 his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

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)

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

56341 Individualized education program team

56345 Elements of the IEP

56390-56392 Certificate of completion, special education

60850-60859 High school exit examination

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3070 Graduation

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

300.1-300.818 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, especially:

300.320 Definition of IEP

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

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

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html?src=mr>

Policy

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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California