

Policy 6146.4: Differential Graduation And Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 04/25/2018 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 04/23/2026

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)

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)

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Governing Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State

5 CCR 3070
Ed Code 60900.2
Ed. Code 51225.31-51225.32
Ed. Code 56341
Ed. Code 56345
Ed. Code 56390-56392
Ed. Code 60640

Description

[Graduation](#)
[Students with disabilities graduation reporting](#)
[Graduation exemption for students with disabilities](#)
[Individualized education program team](#)
[Individualized education program contents](#)
[Recognition for educational achievement; special education](#)
Alternate assessment eligibility

Federal

20 USC 1400-1482
34 CFR 300.1-300.818
34 CFR 300.320

Description

[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)
[Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#)
[Definition of IEP](#)

Management Resources

California Department of Education Publication
California Department of Education Publication
Website
Website
Website

Description

[Alternate Assessment IEP Team Guidance](#)
[Diploma Pathway for Students who Qualify for the California Alternate Assessment, November 2024](#)
[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](#)

Cross References

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[Comprehensive Local Plan For Special Education](#)
[Comprehensive Local Plan For Special Education](#)
[Graduation Ceremonies And Activities](#)
[Reading/Language Arts Instruction](#)
[High School Graduation Requirements](#)
[High School Graduation Requirements](#)
[High School Graduation Requirements](#)
[Reciprocity Of Academic Credit](#)
[Reciprocity Of Academic Credit](#)
[Individualized Education Program](#)
[Individualized Education Program](#)
[Procedural Safeguards And Complaints For Special Education](#)
[Procedural Safeguards And Complaints For Special Education](#)
[Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education](#)
[Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education](#)
[Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students](#)
[Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students](#)
[State Academic Achievement Tests](#)
[State Academic Achievement Tests](#)

Cross References

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[Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education](#)

[Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education](#)