

DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS/ INDIVIDUALS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

The Board of Trustees 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 District-wide 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)

High School Diploma and Certificate of Educational Achievement/ Completion

Beginning in 2005-2006, a student with disabilities may be awarded a high school diploma upon satisfactory completion of the course of study specified in his/her IEP and upon completion of the high school exit exam. The high school exit exam shall be administered in accordance with requirements and accommodations as specified in the student's IEP.

- (cf. [6162.5](#) - Student Assessment)

All students subject to the requirements of the high school exit exam shall receive "adequate notice" as specified in law and Board policy. (Education Code [48980](#), [60850](#))

- (cf. [5145.6](#) - Parental Notifications)
- (cf. [6146.1](#) - High School Graduation Requirements)

Instead of a high school diploma, a student with disabilities may be awarded a certificate of completion if the student has met one of the following requirements: (Education Code [56390](#))

1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study reviewed by the Superintendent/designee and approved by the Board of Trustees of the District in which the student attended school or the District with jurisdiction over the student as identified in his/her IEP
2. Satisfactorily met his/her goals and objectives during high school as identified in his/her IEP

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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. [5127](#) - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

In accordance with Education Code [56391](#), a student with disabilities 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.

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>