

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. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team shall determine the appropriate standards and assessments, as well as the accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities.

No student shall be classified as eligible for differential standards of proficiency for the purpose of circumventing the legal requirement to maintain academic eligibility for extracurricular or co-curricular activities.

High School Diploma and Certificate of Educational Achievement/ Completion

Beginning in December 2007, a student with disabilities may be awarded a high school diploma upon satisfactory completion of the course of study as specified by the Governing Board. The high school exit exam shall be administered in accordance with requirements and accommodations as specified in the student's IEP during the student's sophomore year. Students with disadvantages who meet the specified criteria are exempt from the requirement of passing the exam in order to receive a diploma.

All students subject to the requirements of the high school exit exam shall receive "adequate notice" as specified in law and Board policy.

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:

1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Governing Board 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;
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.

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.

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Adopted: September 24, 2008