

**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 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)

**Certificate of Completion**

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 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
2. Satisfactorily met his/her IEP goals and objectives ring 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 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. (Education Code 56391)

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (continued)**

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