



## Instruction

### Differential Graduation and Competency Standards For Students With Disabilities

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.

*(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)*

*(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)*

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

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

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 cocurricular activities unless otherwise allowed by law. (Education Code 35160.5)

*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)*

### High School Diploma and Certificate of Educational Achievement/Completion

Beginning in 2003-2004, 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 unless it is waived pursuant to state law. 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 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 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



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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

*(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.

An individual with exceptional needs may earn a standard diploma upon completion of the process below.

#### Waiver of California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) for Students with a Disability

At the request of a parent or guardian, a school principal shall submit a request for a waiver of the requirement to successfully pass the high school exit examination to the governing board for a student with a disability who has taken the high school exit examination with modifications that alter what the test measures and has received the equivalent of a passing score on one or both subject matter parts of the examination.

The board may waive the requirement to successfully pass one or both subject matter parts of the high school exit examination for a student with a disability if the principal certifies to the board that the student has all of the following:

- (1) An individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan in place that requires the accommodations or modifications to be provided to the pupil when taking the high school exit examination.
- (2) Sufficient high school level coursework either satisfactorily completed or in progress in a high school level curriculum sufficient to have attained the skills and knowledge otherwise needed to pass the high school exit examination.
- (3) An individual score report for the student showing that the student has received the equivalent of a passing score on the high school exit examination while using a modification that



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fundamentally alters what the high school exit examination measures as determined by the State Board of Education.

A "modification" is defined as any variation in the assessment environment or process that fundamentally alters what the test measures or affects the comparability of scores.

#### *Legal Reference:*

##### EDUCATION CODE

35160.5 *Extracurricular and cocurricular activities; differential standards*

48980 *Parental notifications*

56000 *Education of individuals with exceptional needs*

56341 *Individualized education program team*

56345 *Elements of the IEP*

56390-56393 *Certificate of completion, special education*

60850-60856 *High school exit exam*

60850 (f)(5) *Definition of modification*

60851 (c) *Waiver of the high school exit examination*

##### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3070 *Graduation*

##### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1412 *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

##### CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

300.1-300.756 *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

#### *Management Resources:*

##### FEDERAL REGISTER

34 CFR 300.a *Appendix A to Part 300 - Questions and Answers*

34 CFR 300.a1 *Attachment 1: Analysis of Comments and Changes*

##### CDE COMMUNICATIONS

2000.0314 *Proficiency Standards and High School Exit Exam*

##### WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services:

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS>

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