

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

Status: DRAFT

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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. When necessary, the IEP team shall, in accordance with the law, develop differential proficiency standards appropriate to the student's needs and potential. These differential standards shall be included in the student's individualized education program.

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. (Education Code 35160.5)

**Exemption from District-Established Graduation Requirements**

District students shall complete all course requirements for high school graduation as specified in Board Policy 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements. However, a student with a disability that entered the ninth grade in the 2022-23 school year and later may 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 requirements: (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

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 a free and appropriate public education (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 Completion**

A student with disabilities may be awarded a certificate or document of completion if the student has met one of the following requirements: (Education Code 56375.56390)

~~Has a disability the IEP team determines is so severe he/she is unable to complete the district prescribed course of study for non-disabled students.~~

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 the student's IEP.

Satisfactorily met his/her the goals and objectives during high school as identified in his/her the student's IEP.

Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her the student's IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.

In accordance with Education Code 56376.56391, a student with disabilities who meets the criteria specified above shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a student of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate. (Education Code 56376)