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

Original Adopted Date: 2/14/2024

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.

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 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 Educational Achievement or Completion

Instead of a high school diploma, a student with a disability 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 board of the district in which the student attended school or the district with jurisdiction over the student as identified in the student's IEP

2. Satisfactorily met the student's IEP goals and objectives during high school as determined by the IEP team

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

A student with a disability 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)

Policy Reference Disclaimer:
These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State	Description
5 CCR 3070	Graduation
Ed Code 60900.2	Students with Disabilities Graduation Reporting
Ed. Code 51225.31	Graduation exemption for students with disabilities
Ed. Code 56341	Individualized education program team
Ed. Code 56345	Individualized education program contents
Ed. Code 56390-56392	Recognition for educational achievement; special education

Federal	Description
20 USC 1400-1482	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
34 CFR 300.1-300.818	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
34 CFR 300.320	Definition of IEP

Management Resources	Description
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services
Website	U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
Website	California Department of Education

Cross References

Code	Description
0430	Comprehensive Local Plan For Special Education
0430	Comprehensive Local Plan For Special Education
5127	Graduation Ceremonies And Activities
6146.1	High School Graduation Requirements
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6146.3	Reciprocity Of Academic Credit
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159	Individualized Education Program
6159.1	Procedural Safeguards And Complaints For Special Education
6159.1	Procedural Safeguards And Complaints For Special Education

6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education
6159.2	Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School And Agency Services For Special Education
6159.3	Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students
6159.3	Appointment Of Surrogate Parent For Special Education Students
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6162.51	State Academic Achievement Tests
6164.4	Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education
6164.4	Identification And Evaluation Of Individuals For Special Education
6200	Adult Education
6200	Adult Education