

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.

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)

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT/COMPLETION

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. The high school exit exam shall be administered in accordance with requirements and accommodations as specified in the student's IEP.

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)

Beginning in 2005, a student with disabilities who is unable to pass the high school exit exam or Algebra I, may be awarded a certificate or document of educational achievement or completion instead of a high school diploma 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.
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.
4. Satisfactorily completed the prescribed 230 units required for graduation with the exception of the successful completion of Algebra I, or the successful completion of the California High School Exit Exam.

In accordance with Education Code 56390, 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.

LEGAL REFERENCE**EDUCATION CODE**

35160.5	Extracurricular and co-curricular activities; differential standards
48980	Parental notifications
56000	Education of individuals with exceptional needs
56341	Individualized education program team
56345	Elements of the IEP
56390	Certificate of completion, special education
60840-60856	High school exit exam

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3070	Graduation
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UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1412	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
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CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

300.1-300.756	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
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MANAGEMENT RESOURCES**FEDERAL REGISTER**

34 CFR 300.a Appendix A to Part 300 – Questions and Answers
34 CFR 300.a1: Analysis of Comments and Changes

CDE COMMUNICATIONS

2000.314	Proficiency Standards and High School Exit Exam
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WEBSITES

CDE: [HTTP://WWW.CDE.CA.GOV](http://www.cde.ca.gov)

US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services:
<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS>