

## **DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS**

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. (Education Code 35160.5)

*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities)*

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

Beginning in 2005-06, 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.

*(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 District course requirements approved by the Governing Board of the District in which the student attended school of the school district with jurisdiction over the individual and identified in his/her individualized educational plan (Certificate of Completion)

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2. Satisfactorily met his/her goals and objectives during high school as identified in his/her IEP as determined by the individualized education program team (Certificate of Achievement)
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 (Certificate of Achievement)

*(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.

**Students with Disabilities in the Class of 2006**

As per SB517, Students with disabilities will be exempted from the requirements of passing the language arts and mathematics sections of the California High School Exit Exam under specific circumstances. The delayed requirement is in effect for one year only and applies to students with disabilities who have been identified to be on a diploma track for graduation in 2006.

To be granted a diploma, these students must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have an individualized education program (IEP) as of July 1, 2005
2. Must have completed all other state and District graduation requirements
3. Must have taken the exit exam at least twice after tenth grade, including once during their senior year, with any accommodation or modification specified in their IEPs.

*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*

*56390-56393 Certificate of completion, special education*

*60850-60856 High school exit exam*

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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> (9/92 11/99) 7/00*