

## **Instruction**

### **DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**BP 6146.4**

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 districtwide assessments.

*(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)*

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

*(cf. 6162.51 - Standardized Testing and Reporting Program)*

*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*

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

#### **CAHSEE Exemptions and Waivers**

The District shall grant a diploma to a student with a disability who has not passed the exit exam if all of the following criteria are satisfied: (Education Code 60852.2(a)(3))

1. The student must take the exit exam in grade 10.
2. The student has an IEP or Section 504 Plan.
3. The IEP or 504 Plan states that the student is scheduled to receive a high school diploma.
4. The student has satisfied or will satisfy all other state and District requirements for the receipt of a high school diploma on or after July 1, 2009.

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 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 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 his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services

Students who have active Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and receive Special Education services may continue their high school work in a District program until they graduate or until they reach the age of 22. Program placement will be made by the IEP team.

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. (Education Code 56391)

*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*

A parent or guardian may request the Executive Director of Special Education or designee to submit a request for a waiver of the requirement to successfully pass the high school exit exam to the Governing Board for a student with a disability, who has taken the high school exit exam with modifications that alter what the test measures and has received the equivalent of a passing score on the language arts and/or mathematics sections of the California High School Exit Exam. The principal will certify to the Governing Board that the student has all of the following: Education Code 60851 (c) (1) (A) (B) (C)

1. An Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a plan adopted pursuant to Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in place that requires accommodations or modification to be provided to the student when taking the high school exit exam.
2. The student has satisfactorily completed coursework at high school level curriculum sufficient to have attained the skills and knowledge otherwise needed to pass the high school exit examination.

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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 exam while using a modification that fundamentally alters what the high school exit exam measures as determined by the State Board of Education.

*(cf.6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*

### **Certificate of Educational Achievement**

Instead of a high school diploma, a student with disabilities may be awarded a certificate of educational achievement 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 his/her IEP
2. Satisfactorily met his/her 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 his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services

*(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)*

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. (Education Code 56391)

*(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)*

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

56341 - Individualized education program team

56345 - Elements of the IEP

56390-56392 - Certificate of completion, special education

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*60850-60859 - High school exit examination*

*CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5*

*3070 - Graduation*

*UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20*

*1400-1482 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

*CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34*

*300.1-300.818 - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, especially:*

*300.320 - Definition of IEP*

#### *Management Resources:*

##### *WEB SITES*

*California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>*

*U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative  
Services: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html?src=mr>*

## **Policy**

**Adopted:** January 23, 1996

**Revised:** August 28, 2012

## **PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Pasadena, California