

Riverside County Office of Education
BP 6146.4 Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities

INSTRUCTION

SUBJECT: Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities

The County Board of Education (County Board) and County Superintendent of Schools or designee (County Superintendent) recognize 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 County Office of Education's (County Office) regular course may be needed on an individualized basis to provide FAPE. In accordance with the 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 County Office assessments.

Exemption from District-Established Graduation Requirements

County Office 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 County 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 take the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 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

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the IEP team for each student with a disability shall determine whether the student is eligible for the exemption, and if so, notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. (Education Code 51225.31)

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 County Office's responsibility to provide FAPE shall not terminate when a student with a disability who is exempted from County Office-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 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)

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1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the County Office 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 the student's 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)

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 References:

EDUCATION CODE

60900.0 Students with Disabilities Graduation Reporting

51225.31 Graduation Exemption for Students with Disabilities

56341 Individualized education program team

56345 Individualized IEP Program Contents

56390-56392 Recognition for educational achievement; special education

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3070 Graduation

Federal References

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>

Cross References:

0430 Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education

5127 Graduation Ceremonies and Activities

6146.1High School Graduation Requirements

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6146.3 Reciprocity of Academic Credit

6159 IEP

6159.1 Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education

6159.2 Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School and Agency Services for Special Education

6159.3 Appointment of Surrogate Parent for Special Education Students

6162.51 State Academic Achievement Tests

6164.5 Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education

6200 Adult Education