

FRESNO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

The County Superintendent and County Board 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 Superintendent'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 local assessments.

Exemption from County Superintendent/County Board Graduation Requirements

County Superintendent/County Board students shall complete all course requirements for high school graduation as specified in Superintendent and 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 Superintendent/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 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 responsibility to provide FAPE shall not terminate when a student with a disability who is exempted from County Superintendent/County Board-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)

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1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the County Superintendent/County Board 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)

Adopted: 04/15/2010

Amended: 11/19/2020, 12/12/2023, 03/21/2024

Legal ReferenceEducation Code

51225.31 Exemption from additional coursework for individuals with exceptional needs

56341 Individualized education program team

56345 Elements of the IEP

56390-56392 Certificate of completion, special education

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 ResourcesWebsites

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>