

“AGE OUT” TIMELINES

Eligibility for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) generally terminates on the date the student graduates with a regular high school diploma, or when the student reaches their 22nd birthday, whichever comes first. A student's receipt of an alternative diploma or a certificate of completion does not terminate their right to receive special education and related services under the IDEA.

Students with disabilities who have not received a regular high school diploma and are between the ages of 19 and 21 years, inclusive, must be enrolled in or eligible for a special education program prior to their 19th birthday in order to continue receiving special education services. Any student who reaches age 22 during the months of January to June, inclusive, while participating in a special education program may continue participating in the program for the remainder of the current fiscal year, including any extended school year (ESY) program for students with disabilities.

Any student aged 21 who is eligible to participate in a special education program shall not be allowed to begin a new fiscal year in a program if they reach age 22 in July, August, or September of that new fiscal year. However, if a student is in a year-round school program and is completing an individualized education program in a term that extends into the new fiscal year, then the student may complete that term.

Any student who reaches age 22 during the months of October, November, or December while participating in a special education program shall be terminated from the program on December 31st of the current fiscal year (the fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th), unless the student would otherwise complete their individualized education program at the end of the current fiscal year. For example, if a student has a 22nd birthday in November, but is on track to receive a high school diploma in June of the same fiscal year, he or she would not continue to receive services past June, which is the end of that fiscal year.