

GRADUATION OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Types of Graduation Options

The graduation options available to students are determined by the District’s board policies.

This may include:

- A diploma based on the state mandated requirements;
- A diploma based on University of California A-G requirements; or,
- A certificate of completion.

Students with disabilities must be given adequate notice of the requirements for the types of graduation options offered.

The following table shows a comparison of the different types of graduation options.

Subject Area	State Mandated Requirements for High School Graduation (EC 51225.3)	A-G Requirements (as per the University of California course approval process)	Certificate of Completion (EC 56390)
English	Three Years.	Four years.	Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the District governing board and identified in the student’s IEP AND Satisfactorily met his or her IEP goals and objectives as determined by the IEP team AND Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in instruction, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.
Mathematics	Two years, including Algebra I.	Three years, including algebra, geometry, and intermediate algebra. Four years recommended.	
Social Studies/ Science	Three years of history/social studies, including one year of U.S. history and geography; one year of world history, culture, and geography; 1/2 year of American government and civics, and ½ year of economics.	Two years of history/social science, including one year of U.S. history or 1/2 year of U.S. history and 1/2 year of civics or American government; and one year of world history, cultures, and geography.	
Science	Two years, including biological and physical sciences.	Two years with a lab required, chosen from biology, chemistry, and physics. Three years recommended.	

Subject Area	State Mandated Requirements for High School Graduation (EC 51225.3)	A-G Requirements (as per the University of California course approval process)	Certificate of Completion (EC 56390)
Foreign Language	One year of either visual and performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education.	Two years in the same language required. Three years recommended.	
Visual and Performing Arts	One year of either visual and performing arts, foreign language, or career technical education.	One year of visual and performing arts chosen from the following: dance, drama/theater, music, or visual art.	
Physical Education	Two years	Not Applicable	
Electives	Not Applicable	One year	

Termination of Special Education Services

The following table illustrates the guidelines around the termination of special education services. A prior written notice is required upon the termination of special education services for any of the situations below.

If a student's 22nd birthday is between January and June, the student may continue through the remainder of the fiscal year (school year and ESY ending July 1).	EC 56026(c)(4)(A)
If a student's 22nd birthday is in July, August, or September of the new fiscal year, then the student will not be allowed to begin a new fiscal year (school year and ESY ending July 1 of the current year).	EC 56026(c)(4)(B)
If a student's 22nd birthday is during October, November, or December, the student shall be terminated from the program on December 31 of the current fiscal year, unless the student would otherwise complete his or her IEP at the end of the current fiscal year.	EC 56026(c)(4)(C)
Student graduates from high school with a regular high school diploma.	EC 56026.1(a)

Certificate of Completion or Regular High School Diploma

The IEP team must determine which graduation option is most appropriate for the student, given the options made available by the District as determined by the governing board. If the student is on track for earning a regular high school diploma, either A-G or state mandated,

then the student has until the date indicated on the table above to complete this course of study. Students may not receive a diploma if they do not meet the requirements of the types of diplomas offered as determined by the District.

The District cannot deny a student a diploma based on their disability, but the student does not have a right to a diploma solely due to their disability. The certificate of completion option is available to those students who are not able to complete the requirements for a regular high school diploma as offered by the District. These students are eligible for educational placement and services in accordance with their IEP until the date applicable on the table above. In a standard public school, the certificate of completion option is in accordance with Education Code section 56390 as stated above.

The graduation option chosen by the IEP team shall be documented clearly as part of the “Transition Plan” as well as marked on the “Offer of FAPE - Educational Settings” page of the IEP.

California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE)

The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) is a testing program established by California law. (Ed. Code, § 48412.) The passing of this test earns a student the legal equivalent of a high school diploma.

The CHSPE consists of two sections: an English-Language Arts section and a Mathematics section. If a student passes both sections of the CHSPE, the California State Board of Education will award a Certificate of Proficiency, which by state law is equivalent to a high school diploma (although not equivalent to completing all coursework required for regular graduation from high school.)

If a student with an IEP takes and passes the CHSPE, the student is still eligible to receive educational placement and services in accordance with their IEP at the District until they “age out” or meet the requirements of one of the graduation options offered by the District.

Graduation Checklist

When preparing a student with an IEP to graduate with a high school diploma, please ensure the IEP team has completed the following steps.

1. Scheduled: an exit IEP meeting.
2. Recommended: that this meeting be held within the last 8-10 weeks of school.

At the IEP meeting, complete the following:

1. Update Present Levels of Performance;
2. Complete the Special Education Information System (SEIS) “Post-Secondary Exit” Pages 1 and 2; and
3. Ensure the student’s “Age of Majority” information has been discussed with the student.

Send the parent(s)/guardian a Prior Written Notice (PWN) confirming that the student has met graduation requirements for a high school diploma. The notice shall also specify federal law, i.e., the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which states that a student

who receives a high school diploma is no longer eligible to receive a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). As a result, the student's graduation is considered to be a change in placement and upon graduation from high school the student will no longer be eligible for special education and related services. Lastly, the notice shall include contact information for the District, should the parent(s)/guardian disagree with the determination.

Provide the parent(s)/guardian/student with a copy of the last signed IEP and the last triennial assessment.