

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

The Monterey County Board of Education (County 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 school'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 - State Academic Achievement Tests)
- (cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
- (cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

### **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 (EC) 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)

### **Commencement Exercises for Students with Disabilities**

Only students who meet diploma requirements and special education students who qualify for a certificate of completion are eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. A student with disabilities who meets the criteria for a certificate of completion is eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which students of similar age without disabilities would be

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BP 6146.4

(continued)

eligible to participate. Failure by a student to meet school student conduct standards may result in the denial of participation in graduation ceremonies and in the denial of participation in senior class activities.

The Monterey County Office of Education's (MCOE) obligation to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) does not apply to students with disabilities who have graduated from high school with a regular high school diploma. However, MCOE is obligated to make available a free appropriate public education to students who have received a certificate of completion and have not been awarded a regular high school diploma until the student becomes 22 years of age.

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. [EC 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*

*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*

Adopted: 01/04/17