



Alternative Pathways To A Diploma For Students With Disabilities Policy

Board Approved: November 7, 2024

The Governing Board recognizes that learners 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 learner'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 learner on state and charter-wide assessments.

Exemption from Charter-Established Graduation Requirements

Charter learners shall complete all course requirements for high school graduation as specified in Board Policy - Graduation Policy. However, a learner with a disability who entered the ninth grade in the 2022-23 school year and later may be exempted from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the Board that are in addition to the statewide course requirements for high school graduation if the learner's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31).

1. That the learner is eligible to take the alternate assessment as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the learner complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

Any such exempted learner shall receive a diploma and be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and school activity related to graduation in which a learner of similar age without a disability would be eligible to participate. (Education Code 51225.31)

The charter's responsibility to provide FAPE shall not terminate when a learner with a disability who is exempted from charter-adopted graduation requirements participates in graduation activities unless the learner's IEP team, which includes the parent/guardian and learner, has determined that the learner has completed the high school experience. (Education code 51225.31)

Certificate of Educational Achievement or Completion

Instead of a high school diploma, a learner with a disability may be awarded a certificate or document of educational achievement or completion if the learner has met one of the following

requirements: (Education Code 56390)

1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the board of the charter in which the student attended school or the charter with jurisdiction over the learner as identified in the learner's IEP
2. Satisfactorily met the learner'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 learner's IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services

A learner 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 learner of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate. (Education Code 56391)