

Da Vinci Schools

Policies and Procedures

DIFFERENTIAL GRADUATION AND COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Board of Trustees 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 Da Vinci School's regular course of study 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 district wide assessments.

Alternative Pathway to a Diploma for Students with Significant Cognitive Impairments

Students with significant exceptional needs, who entered ninth grade in the 2022–23 school year or later, attending a school district, county office of education, charter school, or state special school can graduate from high school through a newly defined diploma pathway by meeting the following criteria as referenced in the student's individualized education program:

1. The student is eligible to take the California Alternate Assessment, and
2. The student is required to complete state standards-aligned coursework to meet statewide course requirements.

LEAs must exempt students who meet the above criteria from all local coursework and other requirements that are in addition to statewide coursework requirements, as defined in EC [51225.31](#)

Through the completion of the statewide coursework requirements, Da Vinci Schools must award the qualifying student a diploma of graduation from high school. Through this newly defined diploma pathway, the qualifying student may participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a student of similar age would be eligible to participate. The award of the diploma of graduation via the alternative pathway under EC [51225.31](#) does not change or terminate an LEA's obligation to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to an eligible special education student. This is consistent with Section 7801(23)(A)(ii)(I)(bb) of Title 20 of the United States Code and Section 300.102(a)(3) of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Certificate of Educational Achievement or Completion

In place of a high school diploma, a student with a disability may be awarded a certificate of completion if the student has met one of the following requirements: (Education Code [56390](#))

1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the board of trustees 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

A student with a disability who meets any of these criteria specified above shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activities related to graduation in which a graduating student of similar age without a disability would be eligible to participate (Education Code [56391](#)).

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[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 Individual with Disabilities Education Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

300.1-300.818 Individual with Disabilities Education Act, especially: 300.320 Definition of IEP

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