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Board Cover Memorandum

To Board of Education

From Denise G. Saddler, Interim Superintendent
 Jenine Lindsay, General Counsel
 Sondra Aguilera, Chief Academic Officer
 Jennifer Blake, Executive Director, Department of Special Education
 David Cammarata, Director Special Education Related Support and Services

Meeting Date December 10, 2025

Subject BP6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities

Ask of the Board Adoption by the Board of Education of proposed changes to Board Policy 6146.4.

Background Board Policy 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities

Pursuant to Education Code 56345 and 34 CFR 300.320, the individualized education program (IEP) for each student with a disability must contain a statement of measurable annual goals that would enable the student to progress in the general education curriculum, a statement regarding any accommodations necessary to measure the student's performance on state and district assessments, and any alternative means and modes necessary for the student to complete the district's prescribed course of study and to meet or exceed proficiency standards for graduation; see AR 6159 - Individualized Education Program for a detailed listing of the required contents of the IEP.

The Governing 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 district'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.

Discussion	This proposed revision would include the Alternative Pathway to Diploma in the District's graduation profile for eligible students and clarifies/ updates the definition of a Certificate of Completion. (Education Code section 51225.31)
Fiscal Impact	No fiscal impact
Attachment(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Board Policy 6146.4- Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities (Current)● Proposed Amendments to Board Policy 6146.4- Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities (redlined)● Proposed Amendments to Board Policy 6146.4- Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities (clean)

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BP 6146.4

Instruction

Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team shall determine the appropriate standards and assessments, as well as the accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities.

(cf. 60II - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6159.1- Procedural Safeguards and Complaints for Special Education)

(cf. 6164.4 – Identification of Individuals for Special Education)

No student shall be classified as eligible for differential standards of proficiency for the purpose of circumventing the legal requirement to maintain academic eligibility for extracurricular or co-curricular activities. (Education Code 35160.5)

(cf. 6145 – Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities)

High School Diploma and Certificate of Educational Achievement/Completion

Beginning in 2005-2006, a student with disabilities may be awarded a high school diploma upon satisfactory completion of the course of study specified in his/her **IEP** and upon completion of the high school exit exam. The high school exit exam shall be administered in accordance with requirements and accommodations as specified in the student's IEP.

(cf. 6162.5 - Student Assessment)

A special education student who receives a passing score as a result of a modification on one or both sections of the California High School Exit Exam shall be granted a waiver of that section of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), subject to the following conditions:

The parent or guardian requests such a waiver; The student has an active **IEP** that called for the modification used to receive a passing score; The student received sufficient high school level course work either satisfactorily completed or in progress in a high school level curriculum sufficient to have attained the skills and knowledge otherwise needed to pass the high school exit examination. ng that the student has received the equivalent of a passing score on the CAHSEE while using a modification that fundamentally alters what the CAHSEE measures as determined by the state board. (Education Code 60581) All students subject to the requirements of the high school exit exam shall receive "adequate notice" as specified in law and Board policy. (Education Code 48980, 60850)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

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 56390)

1. Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Governing 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 goals and objectives during high school as identified in his/her IEP.
1. 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. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

In accordance with Education Code 56391, 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.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35 1 60.5 Extracurricular and co-curricular activities; differential standards

48980 Parental notifications

56000 Education of individuals with exceptional needs

56341 Individualized education program team
56345 Elements of the **IEP**
56390-56393 Certificate of completion, special education
60850-60856 High school exit exam
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
3070 Graduation
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

8/25/04; 4/30/08A; 12/10/2025

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BP 6146.4

Instruction

Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities

Pursuant to Education Code 56345 and 34 CFR 300.320, the individualized education program (IEP) for each student with a disability must contain a statement of measurable annual goals that would enable the student to progress in the general education curriculum, a statement regarding any accommodations necessary to measure the student's performance on state and district assessments, and any alternative means and modes necessary for the student to complete the district's prescribed course of study and to meet or exceed proficiency standards for graduation; see AR 6159 - Individualized Education Program for a detailed listing of the required contents of the IEP.

The Governing 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 district'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.

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team shall determine the appropriate standards and assessments, as well as the accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities.

(cf. 60II - Academic Standards)

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(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities)

Alternative Pathway to High School Diploma and Certificate of Educational Achievement/Completion

~~Beginning in 2005-2006, a student with disabilities may be awarded a high school diploma upon satisfactory completion of the course of study specified in his/her IEP and upon completion of the high school exit exam. The high school exit exam shall be administered in accordance with requirements and accommodations as specified in the student's IEP.~~

~~(cf.6162.5—Student Assessment)~~

Alternative Pathway to High School Diploma

District students shall complete all course requirements for high school graduation as specified in Board Policy 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements. However, a student with a disability 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 student's IEP provides for both of the following requirements: (Education Code 51225.31).

1. That the student take the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11 as described in Education Code 60640
2. That the student complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework specified in Education Code 51225.3

Prior to the beginning of grade 10, the IEP team for each student with a disability shall determine whether the student is eligible for the exemption, and if so, notify the student's parent/guardian of the exemption. (Education Code 51225.31)

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

Certification of Educational Achievement/Completion

Instead of a high school diploma, a student with a disability may be awarded a certificate or document of educational achievement or completion if the student has met one of the following requirements: (Education Code 56390)

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2. Satisfactorily met his/her the student'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 his/her the student's IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services

(cf. 5127 - Graduation Ceremonies and Activities)

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

~~In accordance with Education Code 56391, 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.~~

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~~The student has an active IEP that called for the modification used to receive a passing score;~~

~~The student received sufficient high school level course work either satisfactorily completed or in progress in a high school level curriculum sufficient to have attained the skills and knowledge otherwise needed to pass the high school exit examination.~~

~~An individual score report for the student showing that the student has received the equivalent of a passing score on the CAHSEE while using a modification that fundamentally alters what the CAHSEE measures as determined by the state board. (Education Code 60581)~~

~~All students subject to the requirements of the high school exit exam shall receive "adequate notice" as specified in law and Board policy. (Education Code 48980, 60850)~~

~~(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)~~

~~(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)~~

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35 1 60.5 Extracurricular and co-curricular activities; differential standards

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56345 Elements of the IEP

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60850-60856 High school exit exam

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8/25/04; 4/30/08A, 12/10/2025

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Alternative Pathway to High School Diploma

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