

Alternative Pathways to a Diploma for Students With Disabilities

Board Approved: May 2026

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. Additionally, the IEP team shall determine the learner's appropriate graduation pathway based on the Board Policy - Graduation Policy or a policy exemption as outlined below.

Exemption from School-Established Graduation Requirements

Enrolled 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 minimum 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 school-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 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)

- Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the board of the charter in which the learner attended school or the charter with jurisdiction over the learner, as identified in the learner's IEP
- Satisfactorily met the learner's IEP goals and objectives during high school, as determined by the IEP team
- 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).



Graduation Requirements

Alternative Pathway to Diploma

An individual with exceptional needs, who entered ninth grade in the 2022–23 school year or later, and who qualifies per the California Education Code shall be eligible for the award of a Diploma and participation in the school's graduation ceremonies. Eligibility will be determined by the IEP team based on a variety of factors. Individuals must meet the course requirements below and will be graded with the traditional A-F grading system per the school's grading policy.

There is no credit maximum for graduation. Learners must enroll in at least four (4) courses per semester to maintain full-time status at the school.

Course Title	Credits
Math	20 Credits Must Complete Algebra I
Two years of Math (may include Fundamental Math, Fundamental Algebra 1, and/or Fundamental Algebraic Concepts)	20
English	30 Credits
Fundamental English 9 A/B	10
Fundamental English 10 A/B	10
Fundamental English 11 A/B	10
Fundamental English 12 A/B (optional)	
Science	20 Credits
Fundamental Life Science A/B or Fundamental Integrated Science I	10
Fundamental Physical Science A/B or Fundamental Integrated Science II	10
Social Studies	30 Credits
Fundamental World History A/B	10
Fundamental US History A/B	10
Fundamental Civics	5
Fundamental Economics or Fundamental Personal Finance <i>(starting class of 2031)</i>	5
Visual and Performing Arts or World Language or Career-Technical Education Pathway	10 Credits
Two years recommended, 1 year required (1 CTE Pathway or 2 World Language/VAPA courses)	20
Recommended Electives	*40 Credits
According to the learner's interests	25
Life Skills Classes as available	10
Ethnic Studies <i>(required starting with the class of 2030)</i>	5
Physical Education	20 Credits
PE 1 A/B	10
PE 2 A/B	10
Total Recommended Credits To Diploma	180
Total Required Credits to Diploma	135

*Sample can be modified to meet IEP goals and learner interestes

Sample 9th Grade	Sample 10th Grade
Fund English A/B	Fund English A/B
Fund Math A/B	Fund Math A/B
Fund Earth Science A/B	Fund World History A/B
General Elective	Elective
Advisory	Advisory
PE 1 A/B	PE 2 A/B
Sample 11th Grade	Sample 12th Grade
Fund English A/B	Fund English A/B or Elective
Algebraic Concepts A/B	Algebraic Concepts C/D
Fund Life Science A/B	Elective
Fund US History A/B	Fund Economics/Fund Civics
Fund World Language, VAPA, or CTE	CTE or Elective
Advisory	Advisory

Certification of Completion Prescribed Course of Study



Courses may be repeated from year to year using the same course title. The goal is to attempt to teach the basic state subject requirements while modifying them according to the learner's IEP goals. Report card grades for Certificate of Completion:

CR grants "5" credits

NC grants "0" credits

There is no credit maximum for completion. Learners must enroll in at least four (4) courses per semester to maintain full-time status at the school.

Course Title	Credits
Math	20
General Math A/B or General Algebraic Concepts A/B	20
English	30
General English A/B	30
Science	10
General Science	10
Social Studies	30
General World History A/B	10
General US History A/B	10
General Civics	5
General Economics or General Personal Finance (<i>starting class of 2031</i>)	5
Electives	60
According to the learner's interests	10
Visual and Performing Arts A/B	10
CTE 2-3 year Pathway (recommended)	20
Life Skills Classes as available	20
Physical Education	10
PE 1 A/B	10
Total Credits To Certify	160

Sample Course Plan

*Sample can be modified to meet IEP goals

*Must take a minimum of 4 classes per semester

Sample 9th Grade	Sample 10th Grade
Gen English A/B	Gen English A/B
Gen Math A/B	Gen Math A/B
Gen Life Science A/B	Gen World History A/B
Elective	Elective
PE 1 A/B	PE 2 A/B
Sample 11th Grade	Sample 12th Grade
Gen English A/B	Gen Earth Science A/B
Algebraic Concepts A/B	Algebraic Concepts A/B
Gen US History A/B	Elective or Gen English A/B
Elective	Gen Economics or Personal Finance and Gen Civics
Elective	Elective