

GRADUATION POLICY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Purpose

This policy is established by the North Kingstown School Committee for the expressed purpose of setting forth the minimum standards of academic accomplishment that special education students must attain to receive the right to graduate and receive a diploma from North Kingstown High School.

Philosophy

Special education students shall be guided in meeting diploma requirements as determined by their IEP or 504 plan in keeping therewith student's IEP and /or 504 plan shall incorporate the general expectations as established in policy IKF to the extent appropriate to each special education student.

Statement:

Fulfillment of graduation requirements incorporates the following provisions:

1. Students who are assessed in the state alternate assessment under the Alternate Grade Span Expectations (AGSE) will need to meet the same requirements of all students under the districts Proficiency By Graduation Regulation system on the AGSE. Student proficiency under the State Assessment will count towards graduation for the same percentage (up to 10%) as all students in the district. In addition students in the alternate assessment will provide the same evidence for graduation based on the AGSE.
2. Students who do not meet the requirements for graduation with a regular diploma, will remain eligible for a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE) until such time as they earn the diploma or turn age 21.
  - a. IDEA and state regulations determine that the act of graduation and exiting eligibility are a change in placement and as a result the following must also be done:
    - (1) The IEP team must be convened and the team must determine that the placement change is appropriate.
    - (2) Parents and students over the age of 18 must receive a written notice 18 months prior that the change in placement (graduation) will result in the termination of services for the student under IDEA.
    - (3) Parents and students over the age of 18 must also receive a copy of the Procedural Safeguards with the termination of services notice advising them of their options if they do not agree with the team recommendation to graduate.
    - (4) The IEP teams are advised to consider the following in determining the termination of services due to graduation or exit:
      - (a) Has the student met all the requisite requirements for graduation pursuant to earning a regular high school diploma?
      - (b) Has the student's transition service needs been met to the greatest extent possible?
      - (c) Has the appropriate interagency linkages been established to meet the transition needs of the student?
      - (d) Has the student been provided with a Summary of Performance?
3. Assessment for proficiency may be demonstrated in more than one way, including but not limited to, end of course assessment, projects and exhibition. The assessment will be determined based on opportunity, fairness and sufficiency.

4. Students with disabilities who reach the age of graduation and are likely to continue as eligibility for special education services based on their IEP team decision beyond the age of their graduating peers, may participate in graduation ceremonies by donning the cap and gown and crossing the stage in recognition of their participation. Said students will receive a certificate of participation only. NKSD will hold the actual diploma until such time that the student has met the district's requirements for graduation or reached the age of 21.

5. In the event a student wishes to challenge a determination of noncompliance with this policy, an appeal may be made as provided by state law.

First read: 5/24/2007

Second read: 6/13/2007

Adopted: 6/26/2007