

GRADUATION OPTIONS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

The Individual Educational Plan (IEP) team is responsible for determining whether a student has completed a course of study that makes him or her eligible to receive a signed, regular diploma. Even if the student with disabilities will continue his or her education program at the school, the IEP team may recommend that the student would benefit from participating in the graduation ceremony with his or her peers. Upon completion of a course of study that meets the following requirements, the student will be awarded a regular diploma using any of the following program options:

Option 1: A student completes a standard course of study based upon meeting all requirements for graduation and IEP/Transition goals. The student would be eligible to receive a signed, regular diploma and participate in the graduation ceremonies.

Option 2: A student completes the standard or modified course of study but not the IEP/Transition goals.

The student may participate in graduation ceremonies with his or her peers without receiving a signed regular diploma. The student may continue to receive services and supports from the school district until the IEP/Transition goals are met or until the student completes the school year in which he or she reaches the age of 21. At this time, the student will receive a signed, regular diploma.

Option 3: A student completes his/her IEP/Transition goals but not the standard course of study.

When a student's disability prevents him or her from completing the standard course requirements for graduation, the IEP team must identify IEP/Transition goals for graduation that are consistent with the student's individual needs. Upon completion of those goals, the student will be allowed to graduate with a signed, regular high school diploma. A student may elect to participate in graduation ceremonies with peer classmates or upon completion of their course of study.

GRADUATION CONSIDERATIONS:

- Graduation plans must be a part of all IEPs, for students 14 and over. Graduation should be considered in development of the course of study and reviewed annually.
- The receipt of a signed, regular diploma terminates the service eligibility of students with special education needs.
- All diplomas awarded by a school district must be identical in appearance, content and effect, except that symbols or notations may be added to individual student's diplomas to reflect official school honors or awards earned by students.
- A student who receives a certificate is eligible to continue receiving special education

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Gibbon Public Schools

services until receipt of a signed, regular diploma or until the end of the academic year in which the student turns 21.

- At the exit IEP meeting the IEP team will review and document that all requirements for receipt of a signed, regular high school diploma have been met.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.