

Section A - Introduction

It is the policy of the Board of Education of District #225 that all students who possess an IEP (special education students), must satisfy all requirements of the State of Illinois and Board of Education policy on Graduation Requirements 7300, prior to being granted a District #225 diploma, unless a student is unable to meet the requirements due to the student's disability. It is the responsibility of an IEP team to identify when a special education student, because of his/her disability, is unable to satisfy the graduation requirements described in Board policy 7300 and to develop an Alternative Graduation Plan as part of the IEP for each student so identified. The Alternative Graduation Plan/IEP shall specify the coursework and level of performance necessary for the student to be granted a diploma. Students with disabilities who satisfy all requirements contained in their Alternative Graduation Plan/IEP shall be granted a regular District #225 diploma.

Section B - Notification to Parents

At least one year prior to a student's anticipated graduation with a regular District #225 diploma, both the parent and the student shall receive written notification in conformance with 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 226 that eligibility for public school special education services ends following the granting of a regular high school diploma, and that the parent (or the student if parent rights have transferred to the student under The School Code and 23 Illinois Administrative Code Part 226) may request a review of the recommendation that the student receive a regular high school diploma.

Section D - Duration of Services

Students who do not satisfy all graduation requirements of the State of Illinois and Board of Education Policy 7300 or their Alternative Graduation Plan shall be provided continued educational services until the requirements are met, or until the day before the student's 22nd birthday, whichever comes first.

Section E - Appeal Process

Parents of special education students who disagree with the IEP team's recommendations pertaining to graduation or the continuation of the educational program, may request an informal meeting with the special education staff to discuss their concerns, request an IEP, and/or request an impartial due process hearing as described in the Illinois State Board of Education's current "Notice of Procedural Safeguards for Parents/Guardians of Students with Disabilities," in order to resolve the disagreement.

Section F - Graduation Participation

If a student has completed 4 years of high school at the end of a school year but his/her IEP calls for the student to continue to receive special education, transition planning or services, the student may participate in the District's graduation ceremony and receive a certificate of completion.

Students with disabilities who have participated in the District's graduation ceremony but have not been awarded a regular high school diploma continue to be eligible to receive a free appropriate public education through the day before the student's 22nd birthday.

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