

Graduation

Graduation Framework

Students receiving special education services may graduate and be awarded a regular high school diploma if the following criteria is met:

- demonstrates mastery of the required state standards or CFISD standards, if greater;
- satisfactorily completes the credit requirements for graduation under the Foundation High School Program through courses, one or more of which contain modified curriculum, that are aligned to the standards applicable to general education;
- achieves satisfactory performance on the required state assessments, unless the IEP committee has determined that satisfactory performance is not necessary for graduation;
- successfully completes the IEP requirements and meets one of the following conditions:
 - has obtained full-time employment in addition to mastering sufficient self-help skills needed to maintain that employment;
 - has demonstrated mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills;
 - has access to services that are not within the legal responsibility of public education; or
 - no longer meets age eligibility requirements (22 years old).

A child receiving special education services may earn an endorsement by:

- successfully completing, with or without modification of the curriculum:
 - the curriculum requirements for graduation under the Foundation High School Program;
 - the additional endorsement curriculum requirements
- successfully completing all curriculum requirements for that endorsement;
 - without modification of the curriculum; or
 - with modifications of the curriculum, provided that the IEP committee has determined the coursework to be sufficiently rigorous;
- taking all required state assessments, but failing to achieve satisfactory performance in no more than two of them if meeting all other requirements for the endorsement.

Substitutions under the Foundations High School Program, none of which may be used to satisfy any other graduation credit requirement, include:

- a one- or two-credit substitution for the language-other-than-English (LOTE) requirement; and/or
- a one credit substitution for PE.

Upon the request of a child or parent to resume services, a child who meets the age ranges for eligibility may return to school only if the IEP committee determines needed educational services and the child was awarded a diploma that met the following conditions:

- he/she was required to successfully complete the IEP; and
- he/she was required to:
 - obtain full-time employment in addition to mastering sufficient self-help skills needed to maintain that employment;
 - demonstrate mastery of specific employability skills and self-help skills;
 - have access to services that are not within the legal responsibility of public education.

Graduation with a regular high school diploma, except in the specific circumstances cited,

terminates a child's eligibility for special education services and requires compliance with the Summary of Performance legal framework.

Summary of Performance

The school district will provide the graduating student with a summary of the child's academic achievement and functional performance. It will include recommendations on assisting the child in meeting his/her post-secondary goals. And will consider, as appropriate, the views of the parent and student, and written recommendations from adult service agencies.

An evaluation must be included as part of the summary of performance for students graduating based on:

- completion of the credit requirements for graduation under the Foundation High School Program through courses, one or more of which contain modified curriculum;
- satisfactory performance on required state assessments, unless the IEP committee has determined that satisfactory performance is not necessary for graduation; and
- completion of the individualized education program as well as compliance with the graduation framework.

Certificate of Attendance

CFISD will issue a certificate of attendance to a student who receives special education services and who has completed four years of high school but has not completed the student's IEP. CFISD will allow a student who receives a certificate to participate in a graduation ceremony with students who are receiving high school diplomas. Participation in the ceremony does not preclude the student from receiving a diploma at a later date as determined by the ARD Committee. A student may participate in only one graduation ceremony.