

Additional Questions & Answers

Q. If students with disabilities do not receive a diploma how will their accomplishments be recognized?

- A. A Certificate of Completion for a student with disabilities may be awarded if the student has met *one* of the following requirements (Education Code 56390):
- Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the governing board of the district in which the student has attended school or the district with jurisdiction over the student as identified in his/her IEP.
 - Satisfactorily met his/her goals and objectives during high school as identified in his/her IEP.
 - Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.

Q. What is the value of a Certificate of Completion?

- A. A Certificate of Completion provides the student with a sense of pride and self-worth. An attached *Certificate of Completion Supplement* will document pre-vocational skills and competencies that will assist the student in future employment opportunities or continued education/training after high school. Students will have the opportunity to build a personalized vocational portfolio which could include:
- Employment Documents (copies of Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, picture identification, etc.)
 - Training Certificates (Safety/OSHA, CPR, first aid, etc.)
 - Resumés, Job Applications and Letters of Application

Students will continue to develop academic and social skills as well as opportunities for post-secondary success via positive adult mentoring.

Q. Can students who receive a Certificate of Completion participate in graduation ceremonies?

- A. Yes, individuals with exceptional needs who meet locally approved criteria for a Certificate of Completion are eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony in which a pupil of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate.

Q. How will potential employers within the community know about the Certificate of Completion?

- A. The Tulare County educational system, as a whole, will make every effort to educate the community at large as to the value and meaning of the Certificate of Completion.

Q. What options are available for students after high school who earn a Certificate of Completion?

- A.
- Adult School
 - Community College–Certificate Programs
 - Proteus
 - CSET – Continuing education and job training
 - SEE & Company – Continuing education and job training
 - Department of Rehabilitation
 - CCC – California Conservation Corps
 - Continue school attendance until age 22



CAHSEE01.07

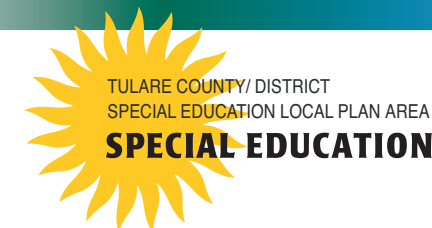
Waiver of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) for Students with a Disability

At the request of a parent or guardian, a school principal shall submit a request for a waiver of the requirement to successfully pass the high school exit examination to the governing board for a student with a disability who has taken the high school exit examination with modifications that alter what the test measures and has received the equivalent of a passing score on one or both subject matter parts of the examination.

The board may waive the requirement to successfully pass one or both subject matter parts of the high school exit examination for a student with a disability if the principal certifies to the board that the student has all of the following:

- 1) An individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan in place that requires the accommodations or modifications be provided to the pupil when taking the high school exit examination.
- 2) Sufficient high school level coursework either satisfactorily completed or in progress in a high school level curriculum sufficient to have attained the skills and knowledge otherwise needed to pass the high school exit examination.
- 3) An individual score report for the student showing that the student has received the equivalent of a passing score on the high school exit examination while using a modification that fundamentally alters what the high school exit examination measures as determined by the State Board of Education.

Education Code 60851 (c) Waiver of the high school exit examination



Students with Exceptional Needs & HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

*Information for
Students & Parents/Guardians*

**Tulare County
Office of Education**

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

- **Earning a High School Diploma in 2006 and Beyond**
- **Information for Students/Parents/Guardians**
- **High School Graduation Requirements and the California High School Exit Exam**

Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, all students in the State of California must meet district requirements and **pass** the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) to receive a high school diploma.

Students with disabilities and their parents/guardians and school staff (including counselors) should design a high school course of study that includes all core curriculum requirements plus electives that reflect the student's strengths, preferences and interests. High school requirements may vary from district to district. Contact the school district for information about the district's requirements for graduation.

Students with questions about their standing in relationship to completed academic units should see a high school counselor.

Regardless of your district's requirements for graduation, ALL students must pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in order to receive a high school diploma.

Facts about the CAHSEE...

- **What is the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE)?**
State law (Senate Bill 2) passed in 1999, authorized the development of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) that students in California public schools will have to pass to receive a high school diploma, beginning with the graduating class of 2006.
- **What is the purpose of the CAHSEE?**
The purpose of the CAHSEE is to improve student achievement in high school. It is also to help ensure that students who graduate from high school can demonstrate competency in state content standards for reading, writing, and mathematics.
- **Must students with disabilities take the CAHSEE?**
Students with disabilities must **take** and **pass** the CAHSEE to receive a high school diploma.
- **Will accommodations or modifications be allowed?**
Yes. The CAHSEE may be given with appropriate accommodations or modifications in accordance with state guidelines.
- **How are accommodations or modifications determined?**
Students with disabilities may take the CAHSEE with those accommodations or modifications that the students have regularly used during instruction and classroom assessments as delineated in the student's individualized education program or 504 plan.

The IEP team or the 504 team shall make decisions on testing accommodations or modifications in accordance with state guidelines.

- **What is the difference between an accommodation and a modification?**
Accommodations must not alter the content of the test or provide inappropriate assistance to the student within the context of the test. Modifications are any variation in the assessment environment or process that fundamentally alters what the test measures or affects the comparability of scores.
- **What will happen if a student receives an equivalent passing score on one or both parts of the test by using a state approved modification?**
Student may be eligible for the waiver process. Refer to the Waiver Process on the back panel of this brochure for a complete explanation.
- **What will happen if a student does not pass the CAHSEE?**
Districts and/or schools will provide additional instruction to assist students who do not pass the exam. Intervention programs, including summer school for students who do not pass the exam, will also be provided (for specific programs, please check with your local school district). If a tenth grade student does not pass either or both sections of the CAHSEE, s/he will have up to seven additional test taking opportunities to succeed. Students will have one opportunity in 10th grade, three opportunities each year in 11th and 12th grades, plus one additional opportunity after completing all high school requirements.
- **Can students and parents/guardians be allowed to see the CAHSEE before it is given?**
Actual test questions will be seen only by the students when they take the examination.

This security measure will ensure that the CAHSEE is fair for all students. Questions from previous exams are posted on the Internet:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee>

Teacher guides for English-language arts and mathematics also are available on the Internet to provide sample questions and other CAHSEE information.

- **How can parents/guardians help their students to do well on the CAHSEE?**
Prior to testing each year, parents/guardians need to talk to their students about the CAHSEE and encourage them to do their best. Parents/guardians should:
 - ✓ Check with local school district for additional information.
 - ✓ Make sure class assignments and homework are completed throughout the year.
 - ✓ Review what students are doing in school.
 - ✓ Actively participate in IEP/504 meetings.
 - ✓ Make sure that students are in school every day unless they are ill.
 - ✓ Review sample test materials provided by the school with their students before testing begins.
- **How can parents/guardians and students find out more about the CAHSEE?**
Each fall, parents/guardians and students are to receive information about the CAHSEE from their school district. More information about this exam is also available at each student's school, school district office, or from the website:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee>