

GRADUATION AND TRANSITION SERVICES POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)

Jackson Public School District students with disabilities and their parents/guardians shall be given the option of the student's working toward a general education high school diploma, an occupational diploma, or a certificate of completion. This decision will be considered at the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) meeting prior to his/her entering the ninth grade. The IEP shall thereafter reflect the option selected by the parents and the students with disabilities and shall specify whether the student is seeking a high school diploma, an occupational diploma, or a certificate of completion. When considering the occupational diploma as an option, the IEP Committee must include a school counselor. If there is a need for change, the decision may be reversed.

Students with disabilities will be issued a regular education high school diploma, an occupational diploma or a certificate of completion as follows:

1. Students pursuing a regular education high school diploma must meet the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education and the Jackson Public School District. Special education and related services will be provided to assist a student in reaching this goal based on the student's IEP.
2. Students who choose the occupational diploma will be required to complete the criteria as designated in the occupational diploma curriculum requirements as outlined by the State Board of Education approved policy (on file in the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Special Education).
3. For those students pursuing a certificate of completion, a curriculum of basic life skills will be utilized for instructional purposes and will be listed in the IEP.
4. Transition services will be provided based on each student's preferences and interests, his or her IEP and the planned outcomes for post-secondary activities specific to the student. Transition services may include:-
 - Instruction in functional academics;
 - Community experiences;
 - Adult living;
 - Employment skills;
 - Related services; and
 - If appropriate, daily living skills and a functional vocational evaluation.
5. Options for exiting high school will be discussed at the annual IEP meeting; however, a determination will not be decided upon until the student's first year of high school. The IEP committee will review the previous exiting option decision for each student at least annually. The committee, along with the parent (s) and, if appropriate, the student, may change the original or previous decision regarding the student's exiting option.

6. Every student who completes an approved course of study by or before age 21 will receive a regular education high school diploma, an occupational diploma or a certificate of completion and will be permitted to participate in graduation activities.

SOURCE: Jackson Public School District, Jackson, Mississippi
LEGAL REF.: Miss. Code Ann. §37-16-11; Senate Bill 2578; Mississippi Department of Education
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