

Graduation Coding Guidance

Districts must accurately code students on an IEP who are awarded a diploma based on how the state's graduation requirements were met. According to ARSD 24:05:27:12. Graduation requirements: It states **“The IEP team may modify the specific units of credit described in § 24:43:11:02.”** If the diploma is modified and not fully aligned, the student is still eligible for special education until either the student meets the same requirements as all students or ages out. Districts must accurately identify in the special education exit code whether the student received a diploma that met the same requirements as all students or if requirements were modified. The state must submit accurate data to federal Office of Special Education Programs and under Every Student Succeeds Act on the number of students that met the regular diploma requirements.

Resources:

- State Graduation Requirements: <https://doe.sd.gov/gradrequirements/>
- Administrative Rules of South Dakota: [IEP Graduation Requirements](#)
- State Reporting Document: <https://doe.sd.gov/ofm/sims.aspx>
- Student Data Collections Desk Guide – Exit Code Cross Walk: <http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/sims.aspx>

Key Information:

- Only one diploma in South Dakota
- Student can receive diploma at any age, even at 21 years old.
- The IEP team should consider including someone with knowledge of the requirements for graduation when developing a course of study for the student.

Questions for Districts to Answer About Student:

1. What are the course and course standard requirements for graduation?
2. Is the student on the pathway towards graduation?
3. Did the student learn the same course content standards but utilized accommodations?
4. Was the modification to course requirements for graduation and/or the standards used to change, lower, or reduce learning expectations?

The student met graduation diploma course and standards requirements.

- Student is taking the same graduation coursework required for all students.
- Student uses accommodations to assist in still meeting course standard requirements.
 - Example of Accommodations:
 - See IEP Technical Assistance Guide and SD Accommodation Manual
 - Course and standards taught:
 - In a different location than peers.
 - Covered over a longer period of time.

Student did not meet the graduation diploma and standards requirements.

- Did not take a course required for graduation?
 - Course substitute (ex. Consumer Math for Algebra I)
- Did not meet course standards?
 - Utilized Core Content Connectors Standards
 - Was not required to learn or demonstrate knowledge of content for a majority of the required course

Special Education Exit Codes

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Graduated, High School Diploma

- Met the same course and content requirements as peers AND
- May have received accommodations in general education and curriculum AND
- Received a regular high school diploma

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Continues/Completed IEP Team Mod Course Requirements

- IEP team made course modifications to state graduation requirements OR
- Courses were aligned to Core Content Connectors OR
- Curriculum/content standards were modified AND
- Met IEP modified course requirements AND
- Continues to be enrolled

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Reached the Maximum Age

- IEP team made course modifications to state graduation requirements OR
- Courses were aligned to Core Content Connectors OR
- Curriculum/content standards were modified AND
- Did not meet IEP modified course requirements AND
- Reached the age of 21

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Discontinued/Completed IEP Team Mod/Course Requirements

- IEP team made course modifications to state graduation requirements OR
- Courses were aligned to Core Content Connectors OR
- Curriculum/content standards were modified AND
- Did not reach the age of 21 AND
- Did not return to school (dropped out)

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Aged Out: Completed IEP Team Mod/Course Requirements

- IEP team made course modification to state graduation requirements OR
- Courses were aligned to Core Content Connectors OR
- Curriculum/content standards were modified AND
- Met IEP modified course requirements AND
- Reached the age of 21