

Alternative Pathways for Grade Promotion and Graduation

New law changes outcomes for
certain students with disabilities

Act 833 of 2014

Act 833 (HB1015)

Alternative Pathway for Promotion and Graduation

- IEP teams of certain students with disabilities have the option of determining what a student must perform to move to the next grade (promotion) or graduate.
- Some students may have their IEP goals be considered as a requirement for grade promotion and earning credits toward graduation.

Which Students are Eligible?

Promotion

- Did not pass standardized test (prior year)
- Did not meet requirements for promotion (prior year)

Graduation

- Did not pass standardized tests:
 - any two (2) of most recent three (3) years; or,
 - two (2) administrations of any End-of-Course test.

Which Students are NOT Eligible?

Students with disabilities who have met requirements on standardized tests or for promotion and/or graduation will not be provided an alternative pathway to be promoted to the next grade or graduate.

Get Ready for Changes

Within 30 days of the student entering the grade level or high school course, the IEP team must establish minimum performance requirements relevant to promotion or graduation requirements

Performance requirements established by the IEP team include, but are not limited to, what a student must score on the standardized assessment or end of course tests.

Testing

Students with disabilities will continue to take all appropriate tests for the classes/grades for which they are enrolled. Student performance on these tests will continue to count toward school and district accountability.

Is Alternative Pathway Lowering Expectations?

No. Currently, many students with disabilities are being put on 'non-diploma' tracks at relatively young ages. Decisions are being made as early as 3rd grade that these students will not earn a diploma. This alternative pathway will give the students with disabilities the opportunity to work towards goals without being taken off of a diploma pathway.

Focus for 2014-2015

Within the first 30 days:

- High school students who have a way to earn enough Carnegie Units prior to turning 22.
 - All young students (freshman/sophomores)
 - Older students who have some Carnegie Units
- Eighth Grade Students at risk of not being promoted to High School

Ever after:

Include alternative requirements in IEPs of eligible students.

What does not change?

- All rights and responsibilities related to the Individual with Disabilities Education Act
- Access to the Academic Curriculum that all students are learning
 - IEPs should continue to be aligned with the curriculum
- Participation on Standardized Assessments
- Parent/Student Rights

For More Information

<http://www.laddc.org/content.cfm?id=563>

or

www.laddc.org/promotion-diploma-pathways