



Curriculum & Instruction BP 10-10

Board Policy: CAHSEE Exemption for Students with Disabilities (Beginning in 2009-10)

The GCC shall grant a diploma to a student with a disability who has not passed the exit exam if all of the following criteria are satisfied: (Education Code 60852.3)

- 1. The student has an IEP or Section 504 plan.*
- 2. The IEP or 504 plan states that the student is scheduled to receive a high school diploma.*
- 3. The student has satisfied or will satisfy all other state and GCC requirements for the receipt of a high school diploma on or after July 1, 2009.*

Note: In 2009 the Legislature enacted Education Code section 60852.3 which provides an exemption from the CAHSEE requirement for students with disabilities beginning with the graduating class of 2009-2010. Education Code section 60852.3 provides in relevant part:

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, commencing with the 2009-10 school year, an eligible pupil with a disability is not required to pass the high school exit examination established pursuant to Section 60850 as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or as a condition of graduation from high school.

(b) For the purposes of this section, an eligible pupil with a disability is a pupil with an individualized education program adopted pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.) or a plan adopted pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1972 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794(a)) that indicates the pupil is scheduled to receive a high school diploma, and that the pupil has satisfied or will satisfy all other state and local requirements for the receipt of a high school diploma, on or after July 1, 2009.

Waiver for Students with Disabilities

When a student with disabilities has taken any section of the exit exam with one or more modifications and has received the equivalent of a passing score, his/her parent/guardian may request that the student receive a waiver of the requirement to successfully pass the exam. Upon receipt of such request, the principal shall submit a request for a waiver to the GCC Board. The Board may waive the requirement to successfully pass the exit exam if the principal certifies that the student has all of the following: (Education Code 60851)

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

In order to protect the student's privacy rights, the waiver request shall be considered in closed session. Final Board action on the waiver request shall be taken in open session and shall be a matter of public record. The student's name shall not be disclosed in open session.

The principal or designee shall notify parents/guardians of students with disabilities about the criteria and process for applying for a waiver of the requirement to successfully pass the exit exam. A special education student on a non-diploma track is not required to take the CAHSEE (which condition must be part of that student's IEP) and will, upon completion of requirements for graduation, receive a certificate of achievement.

Each year, the Superintendent or designee shall provide the CDE with data regarding students with disabilities and the GCC's waiver process as specified in 5 CCR 1207.1.

Note: All GCC schools are currently 'schools of the district (TRUSD) for the purposes of special education'. As such, and until or unless this status changes, the TRUSD Special Education department will communicate, coordinate and assist the GCC as our designee in these matters.