

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS: Policy Update: Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

Category:

Audience: Principals/APs (Senior High)

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

Attachment(s): [Florida Department of Education \(FDOE\) Memo k12-07-125memo.pdf](#)

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) interpretation of existing state statute and rules has changed.

- FDOE Memorandum K12 2007 - 125 informs that Federal Regulation Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 300.102 (iv), has been revised and now states that, "...the term regular high school diploma does not include an alternative degree that is not fully aligned with the state's academic standards, such as the GED".
- Students with disabilities who have earned a general educational development (GED) credential may elect to continue participating in school and receive services until they earn a standard diploma or through the end of the school year in which the student turns 22 years of age.
- The District will **not** continue to provide services to students with disabilities who have successfully utilized the GED Exit Option Model to earn a standard diploma.
- Students with disabilities awarded a certificate of completion, special diploma, or special certificate of completion may elect to continue participating in school and receive services until they earn a standard diploma or through the end of the year in which the student turns 22 years of age.
- For regular education students, the GED is still considered a standard diploma. This change in interpretation of the GED and the high school diploma is only for the purpose of continuation of FAPE for eligible exceptional student education students.
- Another source of information is the FDOE technical assistance paper, FY 2006-4 Serving Student with Disabilities Ages 18 through 21 that may be downloaded at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/tap-home.asp>.
- For questions regarding special education policies and procedures, please contact Ms. Joanne Rosen, District Staffing Specialist with the Division of Special Education, at 305 995-4697.

Contact: Mr. Jorge A. Rivas (305 995-7320)

Department: Division of Student Services