

1. Describe the graduation waiver process?

A process through which the LEA may request that one of the required components of the student's respective exit examination(s) be waived to assist the student in obtaining a high school diploma.

The following are process points:

- a. Waivers are administered for May and August graduations.
- b. LEAs are notified of the process via the agency's newsletter and monthly special education calls.
- c. The application [guidelines/packet](#) is also posted to the agency's website in the [Students with Disabilities library](#).
- d. Each waiver is assigned to reviewer
 - i. Standard checklist is used to record the results of the reviews
 - ii. Letters are sent to LEAs with results

2. What state policy allows for the administration of this waiver process?

Pursuant to B.741 Section 2319B, for students with disabilities who have passed two of the three required components of the respective exit examinations and have exhausted all opportunities available to pass the remaining component may be waived by the state superintendent of education if the Department of Education determines the student's disability significantly impacts his/her ability to pass the end-of-course test.

3. What criteria must a student meet to be considered eligible for the graduation waiver?

These waivers may be granted students with disabilities who meet the following conditions:

- a. Has a disability and/or diagnosed impairment
- b. Is a high school senior who is eligible for graduation
- c. Has earned the required Carnegie units
- d. Is on track for a high school diploma
- e. Has a current evaluation which includes a description of the students weaknesses, deficits and diagnosed impairments as reported during the evaluation process by the team of qualified examiners (B.1508)
- f. Has a current Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- g. Is receiving instructional support in the deficit area(s) as indicated through services, accommodations, and supports described on the IEP
- h. Has exhausted all efforts to pass all components of his or her respective exit examination

4. What tests are included in this process?

Currently, the policy allows the agency to waive one component of the End of Course, GEE, and/or LAA2. There are circumstances where students participate in more than one examination, such as the GEE and LAA2 or the EOC and LAA2.

5. What are the benefits of a graduation waiver?

Students can graduate, earn a standard high school diploma, and participate in commencement exercises at the same time of their peers.

For more information, contact specialeducation@la.gov.