

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OPTIONS

Successful transitions from high school to a postsecondary option require planning, goal-setting, and decision-making. One of the most important decisions to be made is the type of high school diploma the student will work toward. A student's opportunities for further education and training, employment, and military service after graduation may depend on the type of diploma that the student earns.

This flyer provides information about the various diplomas and certificates of completion. It describes requirements students must meet and the opportunities for postsecondary education or employment typically available to students with each type of diploma or certificate of completion.

Standard Diploma

The standard diploma is the type of high school diploma earned by most students who graduate from Florida high schools. All students, including students with disabilities, may work to earn a standard diploma. Students must meet state and district requirements to earn this diploma. You can log on to www.dreamsbeginhere.org to check for graduation requirements.

Standard Diploma with FCAT Waiver for Students with Disabilities

The IEP team may waive the FCAT requirement for graduation with a standard diploma if there is sufficient evidence that the student 1) has demonstrated mastery of the Grade 10 Sunshine State Standards, 2) has taken the Grade 10 FCAT with appropriate allowable accommodations at least twice, 3) has participated in intensive remediation for FCAT Reading and/or FCAT Mathematics, if passing scores were not earned, and 4) the IEP team determines that the FCAT is not an accurate measure of the student's ability, the FCAT requirement may be waived for either the reading portion, the mathematics portion, or both portions of the test, and the student may graduate with a standard diploma. The FCAT waiver is not available to students in either of the three-year, 18-credit options.

Special Diploma

Special diplomas are available to certain students with disabilities. Students identified as visually impaired or speech impaired are not eligible for a special diploma unless they have another identified disability. There are two types of special diplomas: Option 1 and Option 2.

Special Diploma, Option 1 Requirements	Special Diploma, Option 2 Requirements*
<p>The requirements for Option 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must earn the minimum number of course credits determined by the local school board. • Student must show mastery of the Sunshine State Standards for Special Diploma. 	<p>Option 2 is based on mastery of a set of employment and community competencies identified in the graduation training plan developed for each student by the IEP team.</p> <p>The requirements for Option 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must be successfully employed for at least one semester, at or above minimum wage. • Student must achieve all annual goals and short-term objectives related to employment and community competencies in the graduation training plan. • Student must show mastery of competencies in his or her employment and community competencies training plan. <p>*This option requires the approval of the District Transition Specialist.</p>

Certificates of Completion

A certificate of completion is available to any student who completes the State-required courses but fails to meet the other diploma requirements.

- A regular *Certificate of Completion* shall be awarded to a student who has passed the courses required by the State of Florida but failed to pass the Grade 10 FCAT, to pass courses required by the District, and/or achieve the required grade point average.
- A *College Placement Test Eligible Certificate of Completion* shall be awarded to a student who has met all graduation requirements except passing one or both parts of the Grade 10 FCAT.
- A *Special Certificate of Completion* shall be awarded to students with disabilities who are unable to meet all of the requirements for a special diploma. The certificate indicates that the student

passed the required ESE courses but did not master all of the Sunshine State Standards for Special Diploma.

State of Florida High School Diploma (GED)

Any student who is at least 18 years old and who has not earned a standard diploma may earn a State of Florida diploma by passing the Tests of General Educational Development (GED). GED test preparatory classes are offered through local adult education programs.

GED Exit Option Model

Students who lack the required course credits or grade point average may be eligible to work toward a standard diploma from their high school, as well as a State of Florida diploma by passing both the FCAT and GED tests.

QUICK REFERENCE CHART

	Is a high school diploma	Is recognized by employers	Is accepted by technical centers	Is accepted by community colleges	Is accepted by state universities	Is accepted by the military
Standard Diploma (W06)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
*Standard Diploma with FCAT waiver (WFT)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
*Special Diploma Option 1 (W07)	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	No	Maybe
*Special Diploma Option 2 (W27)	Yes	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	No	Maybe
College Placement Test Eligible Certificate of Completion (W8A)	No	No	Maybe	Yes	No	No
Certificate of Completion (W08)	No	No	Maybe	Maybe	No	No
*Special Certificate of Completion (W09)	No	No	Maybe	Maybe	No	No
GED (WGD) (W10)	Yes	Maybe	Yes	Yes	No	Maybe

***These options are only available to student with current IEP's.**

NOTE: There may be exceptions to general admission policies, such as provisional enrollment for community college or acceptance into the military for students with special diplomas. Families should investigate further to find out about specific requirements for postsecondary and technical education, employment, and the military. Further tests such as college placement, basic skills, or ability tests may be used to determine eligibility for some options.