
NYS SKILLS AND ACHIEVEMENT COMMENCEMENT CERTIFICATE

The Committee on Special Education shall make every effort to ensure that students with severe disabilities are provided with appropriate opportunities to earn a high school diploma in accordance with the provisions of Section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. [Sections 100.5, 100.6, 100.9 and 200.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education](#) have been amended to replace, beginning with the 2013-14 school year and thereafter, the New York State (NYS) Individualized Education Program (IEP) diploma with a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential for students with severe disabilities who are eligible to take the New York State Alternate Assessment (NYSAA).

Students with severe disabilities who are unable to complete the requirements for a high school diploma in accordance with the provisions of Section 100.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education may be eligible for a Sharon Springs Central School New York State Skills and Achievement Commencement Certificate.

Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential Requirements:

The Board of Education or trustees of a school must (and the principal of a nonpublic school may) issue a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential to each student with a severe disability in accordance with the following rules:

1. Only students with disabilities who have been instructed and assessed on the alternate performance level for the State learning standards are eligible for this credential award.
2. The credential may be awarded any time after such student has attended school for at least 12 years, excluding kindergarten or received a substantially equivalent education elsewhere; or at the end of the school year in which a student attains the age of 21.
3. The credential would not be considered a regular high school diploma in accordance with State standards or for federal accountability purposes.
4. The credential must be similar in form to the diploma issued by the school district or nonpublic school, except that there shall appear on the credential a clear annotation to indicate the credential is based on achievement of alternate academic achievement standards (see Attachment 1).

5. The credential must be issued together with a summary of the student's academic achievement and functional performance (Student Exit Summary – see State Developed Model Form Attachment 2) and must include documentation of the student's:
 - Achievement against the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) learning standards <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/cdlearn/>;
 - Level of academic achievement and independence as measured by NYSAA;
 - Skills, strengths, interests; and
 - As appropriate, other achievements and accomplishments.
6. For students less than 21 years old, the credential must be provided with a written assurance that the student continues to be eligible to attend the public schools of the school district in which the student resides, without payment of tuition, until the student has earned a regular high school diploma or until the end of the school year in which the student turns age 21, whichever occurs first.