



California's protection and advocacy system

www.disabilityrightsca.org

Toll Free: (800) 776-5746

TTY: (800) 719-5798

1 Fact Sheet on California's Budget Cuts to K-12 Education – August 6, 2009

CAHSEE EXIT EXAM

This flier describes changes that were made through the California budget process. These changes are related to the CAHSEE high school exit examination. These changes become effective at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

How Did the Law Change?

The previous law stated that every student in the state of California must pass the CAHSEE high school exit exam in order to receive a high school diploma. The new law exempts eligible students with disabilities from passing the CAHSEE. This means that students who meet the criteria of eligible students can obtain a high school diploma without passing the CAHSEE. Students with disabilities still need to take the CAHSEE in the 10th grade for the purposes of the No Child Left Behind Act. Ed Code section 60852.3(e). A student with a disability also must attempt the CAHSEE in 12th grade.

Who is an "eligible student"?

An eligible student is defined as a student who has an IEP or a 504 plan which indicates that the student is scheduled to receive a high school diploma, and the student 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. Education Code section 60852.3(c).

What does it mean that the student has to fulfill all other state and local requirements?

Students must complete the necessary coursework and credits mandated by state law to receive a high school diploma. The only requirement that is different is that the passing of the CAHSEE is not required. The specific coursework and credit requirements applicable in your school district are available upon request from the school district.

How long will this exemption be in effect?

The exemption will be in effect until the State Board of Education implements by regulation alternative means for eligible students with disabilities to demonstrate the level of academic achievement in the content standards required for passage of the CAHSEE, or until it determines such alternative means are not feasible. Education Code Section 60852.3(b). Under current law, it is anticipated that commencing on January 1, 2011, eligible students with disabilities may participate in such alternative tests. However, the State board of Education may, by regulation, extend this date by up to two years if it determines that an extension is necessary for the appropriate implementation of the regulations adopting the alternative tests. Education Code Section 60852.2(b).