**HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL 4773**

 **INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM DIPLOMAS**

The Board of Education and district staff shall comply with all federal and state requirements concerning the education of children with disabilities. All students, including those with disabilities, shall be given the greatest opportunity possible to earn a Regents or local diploma.

The Committee on Special Education (CSE) shall review the progress of all students with disabilities who will attain the age of twenty-one years prior to the end of the current school year and those students with disabilities who have received twelve years of education for whom an application for a high school individualized education program (IEP) diploma has been made. The CSE shall notify the Superintendent of Schools of those students eligible to receive an IEP diploma.

Pursuant to Section 100.9(b) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, a student with a disability who has attained the age of 21 and has achieved the educational goals contained in his/her current IEP shall be awarded an IEP diploma. Upon application of a student with a disability, or the student’s parent(s), an JEP diploma shall be issued if the student has attended school, or received a substantially equivalent education elsewhere, for twelve years exclusive of kindergarten, if the student has achieved the educational goals specified in the student’s current IEP.

A student with a disability may be awarded a high school IEP diploma by the end of the school year in which the student attains the age of 21, provided:

1. a determination has been made that the student has achieved the educational goals specified in the student’s current IEP;
2. such student has attended school or has received a substantially equivalent education elsewhere for at least 12 years, excluding kindergarten;
3. each high school IEP diploma shall be identical in form to the local high school diploma issued by the district except that there shall appear on the front of such diploma a clear annotation to indicate that the diploma is awarded on the basis of the student’s successful achievement of the educational goals specified in the student’s current IEP as recommended by the Committee on Special Education (CSE); and
4. if the student receiving a high school IEP diploma is less than 21 years of age, such diploma shall be accompanied by a written statement of assurance that the student named shall continue to be eligible to attend the public schools of the district in which the student resides without the payment of tuition until the student has earned a high school diploma or until the end of the school year of such student’s 21st birthday, whichever is earlier.

Prior to June of each year, the CSE shall meet to determine the eligibility of students with disabilities for such diplomas, and so notify the Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent of Schools shall notify the Board, prior to graduation ceremonies in June, of those students eligible to receive an IEP diploma. The Board shall direct that an IEP diploma be issued to eligible students. The high school IEP diploma may be awarded at graduation ceremonies. The Superintendent shall file a report with the Commissioner of Education within 15 days of graduation, in the form and containing such information required by the Commissioner.

Each IEP diploma shall indicate on its face that it is awarded on the basis of the student’s successful achievement of the educational goals specified in the student’s current IEP as recommended by the CSE.

If the student receiving an IEP diploma is less than 21 years of age, the diploma shall be accompanied by a written assurance of the student’s continued right to attend public school until the end of the school year in which the student reaches the age of twenty-one or until the student has earned a high school diploma, whichever is earlier.

Cross-ref: 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities
Ref: 8NYCRR §§100.6; 100.9

ADOPTED: 1/12/98