

All students receiving special education services in Pennsylvania are guaranteed the right to an opportunity to earn a high school diploma. A high school diploma will be awarded to a student who successfully completes the same courses and earns the same credits as a general education student, or who completes the special education program developed by the IEP team.

School districts will permit students with disabilities to participate in graduation ceremonies with their graduating class, even though they will not be awarded a diploma and will continue to receive educational services. A student who reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years during the school term and who has not graduated from high school may continue to attend the public schools in his/her district, free of charge, until the end of the school term. For instance, at age 18, your child may be a part of graduation ceremonies with his/her classmates, but still go to school until he/she is 21.

You will receive written notice (NOREP/PWN) of the termination of special education services from your child's school when school officials believe your child's IEP has been completed and your child is eligible for graduation, or nearing the end of the school year in which your child reaches the age of 21. If you disagree with the notice, you may request an informal meeting with school officials, mediation, or a special education due process hearing.