



**Local Policy FMH
Commencement Exercises
Abilene ISD**

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Current Local Policy Regarding Commencement Exercises

FMH (Local)

To be eligible to participate in commencement activities and ceremonies, a student shall meet all state and local graduation requirements, including all applicable state testing.

Legal Policy Regarding Commencement Exercises

FMH (Legal)

A student who completes all graduation requirements except for required end-of-course assessment instruments may be issued a certificate of coursework completion. **A district may allow a student who receives a certificate of coursework completion to participate in a graduation ceremony with students receiving high school diplomas.**

Requirements to Receive a HS Diploma

EIF (Legal) [excerpt]

A student may graduate and receive a diploma only if the student:

1. Successfully completes the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education (SBOE)..., has performed satisfactorily on applicable state assessments..., and complies with the financial aid application requirements...; or
2. Successfully completes an individualized education program (IEP) developed under Education Code 29.005.

Individual Graduation Committees (IGC)

- Option that allows students to graduate even if they have not passed all five STAAR End-Of-Course Exams.
- Projects or portfolios assigned for up to two non-passed EOC exams

Current and Past Issue

- Currently there are 9 Abilene ISD students who have not passed three or more EOC exams and do not qualify to graduate via IGC decision
- All 9 students took the tests they have not yet passed between April 15-29
- TEA Testing Calendar states that early results are expected to be reported to school districts by May 23rd (date of district's first commencement ceremony)
- Similar issue in 2022-2023

Possible Solution to Current and Future Uncertainty

In 2022-2023, the following was added to FMH (Local):

For the 2022-23 school year only, if TEA is unable to deliver before the date of the spring commencement ceremony the results from the final spring testing opportunity for a student who has met all other requirements, the student shall be permitted to participate in the spring commencement activities and ceremonies.

Possible Solution to Current and Future Uncertainty

A change to FMH (Local) is being recommended to the following:

If TEA is unable to deliver results from the final spring testing opportunity by noon on the Wednesday prior to the district's first scheduled high school commencement ceremony, the student shall be permitted to participate in the spring commencement activities and ceremonies.

Questions?