



Graduation Capstone Guidance: Individualized Education Programs

Graduation Capstone and IEPs

Any student with an IEP is entitled to the right to attempt the requirements for a regular high school diploma. Every student with an IEP must make the same demonstration of readiness as their peers must make from Jeffco's Menu of Graduation Options. IEP teams must consider whether the student requires accommodations, but cannot change the requirements for graduating with a regular diploma.

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) are **subject to the same standards as their peers.**

"A student's IEP is a lens through which the individualized aspect of the Graduation Capstone is to be construed for a student to meet rigorous requirements with accommodations and services as provided through the IEP."

In Jeffco, each high school determines Graduation Capstone Policy. The purpose of this document is answer question and to guide conversations around each building's implementation

Graduation Capstone Guidelines

Capstone is one of many pathways in which a student is able to demonstrate knowledge competency required for graduation. Graduation Readiness Capstone enables a truly individualized experience for students to expand their learning and develop skills for postsecondary workforce readiness. Students meet transforming the task in the following ways, and may do so while leveraging a variety of digital learning strategies (instruction, pedagogy, tools & mindset):

- High expectations--Students experience transformed tasks through the application of generations skills, including content knowledge
- Agency & Authenticity-- --Connections and relevance are created through a self-selected topic in an area of interest or passion

Capstone work will include:

- A portfolio of work which reflects the student's self-selected Capstone project;
- A public demonstration of learning;
- Intentional connections to the student's ICAP;
- Authentic mentor experiences(which can take many forms), and;
- Clear connections to Jeffco's prepared graduate success skills, as identified below (through the Jeffco Capstone Rubric):

Please contact Jeb Brako, Assistant Director of Special Education, if you have any further questions.

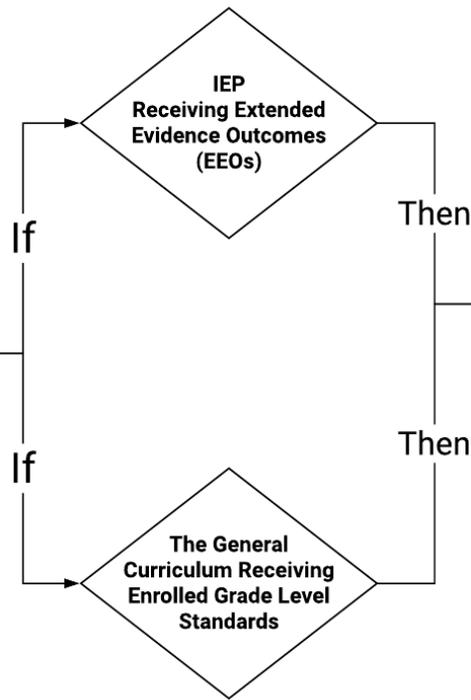
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Demonstration of Knowledge Competency Options



What opportunities are available for my student to demonstrate the knowledge competency requirement to receive a Jeffco Diploma?



- Knowledge Competency Demonstration Options:**
- Classic Accuplacer
 - Next Generation Accuplacer
 - ACT
 - ACT Work Keys
 - Advanced Placement
 - ASVAB (AFQT)
 - Concurrent Enrollment
 - International Baccalaureate (IB)
 - SAT
 - Industry Certificate
 - Collaboratively Developed performance Based Assessment (State Developed)
- AND/OR
- District Capstone**

Graduation Capstone/IEP Considerations

A student’s IEP is a lens through which the individualized aspect of the Graduation Capstone is to be construed for a student to meet rigorous requirements with accommodations and services as provided through the IEP. Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEP) are **subject to the same standards as their peers** and IEPs do not fundamentally change the requirements of the Jeffco Graduation Capstone. Rather, IEPs help students with disabilities to access equal opportunity as all Jeffco students.

Careful consideration should be given towards supporting a student with an IEP and their corresponding needs by performing the following tasks:

- Connect with the student’s case-manager and IEP service providers who can speak towards supporting the student’s needs.
- Collaborate with the student’s parent or guardian to deeply understand the strengths and needs of the student.
- Provide accommodations for all corresponding Graduation Capstone activities per the student’s IEP.
- IEP Case-managers are closely consulted with as related to the student’s public demonstration of learning.
- Mandatory special education consultation within the building’s graduation capstone committee and thoughtful dialogue towards supporting students receiving special education related to their participation and opportunity through the capstone process.

Students with Extended Evidence Outcomes

Please contact Jeb Brako, Assistant Director of Special Education, if you have any further questions.

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Students with Extended Evidence Outcomes (EEOs) have access to every option available through Jeffco's Menu of Options. In some cases, the *District Graduation Capstone* may be the best option for a student to demonstrate their knowledge in English and math. In these situations, the building team should consult heavily with a Significant Support Needs (SSN) Teacher. Due to IEP requirements for transition instruction and planning, SSN teachers often maintain portfolios of core competencies in areas applicable to graduation capstone requirements. Separate evaluation criteria for students on EEOs are not appropriate; rather, evaluators should assess students' work with deep empathy and conscientiousness towards the student's needs and strengths as related to the work being produced.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Which options are available to students with an IEP?

Every option on the menu of options is available to students with IEPs.

Q2: Is there an Alternate Graduation Capstone for students with IEPs and/or EEOs?

No, there is no alternate option for any student with an IEP because federal law requires states and school districts to "apply the same challenging academic content and achievement standards for all students, including students with disabilities." *Letter to White*, 63 IDELR 230 (OSERS 7/2/14).

Q3: What about a Certificate of Completion/Attendance?

Jeffco's Board of Education has not approved of a Certificate of Completion/Attendance, nor does the Jeffco Menu of Options permit this instead of a diploma.

Q4: Does this mean that students on EEOs can't graduate?

Students on EEOs can graduate with a diploma. Each district determines its regular high school diploma and each district has the discretion to issue diplomas.

Q5: Do students on EEOs still earn high school credits?

Yes, all students including those on EEOs have equal opportunity to earn high school credits. Higher education entities are not required to honor modified courses on a student's transcript.

Q6: Who determines the individualized capstone for a student?

Every student in Jeffco has the opportunity to complete the Graduation Capstone per the district's menu of options. Each capstone is individualized towards the student. IEP case-managers should initiate a conversation about graduation pathways by the time the student has turned 15 years old or entered 9th grade. Decisions to attempt the Graduation Capstone are determined by the student with guidance from the student's special education case-manager.

Q7: Who determines if the capstone is compliant?

Every school is afforded with the opportunity to develop their own graduation capstone in alignment with Jeffco's criteria and state requirements.

Q8: What about students who are going to have math credits waived and will only reach transition to algebra or consumer math?

All students of Jeffco are required to complete all criteria specified in the district's [Graduation Requirements](#) in order to receive a regular high school diploma. Credits may not be waived, but IEP course modifications are allowable.

Q10: Are there any examples of capstones created by students who are in the SSN programs? Could there be examples and non-examples?

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Draft Document

Jeffco's graduation capstone is individualized for each student such that there are no standard criteria and buildings should utilize their special education teachers to provide insight into accommodating or modifying for the needs of the student. Examples of graduation capstones are available through the graduation capstone cohort.

Q11: Is there guidance from the district around specific accommodations for the capstone that should be written into the IEP in Enrich?

No. All IEP accommodations or modifications are applicable to the graduation capstone, the same as they are to every other aspect of the school environment.

Q12: Will colleges honor a student's transcripts on EEOs and will students receiving EEOs be able to attend college?

Colleges conduct credit reviews and determine which credits are accepted at their individual institution.