

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND/OR EXCEPTIONALITIES IN HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGH SCHOOL

Q-1. Does a student with a disability have to take all of the TOPS core curriculum units? If not, what documentation must they provide?

A. TOPS core curriculum requirements may be waived for a student who has one or more learning, visual, hearing or physical disabilities. To obtain a waiver, the high school must certify to LOSFA that it has on file in the school records the following documents:

1. A written diagnosis from a person licensed or certified to diagnose the disability of the student that specifies the need for special accommodation by the student's high school, and
2. A written statement from the principal of the high school that a plan of accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("504 Plan") has been established, and the high school was unable to provide the special accommodation, or, if the special accommodation was provided by the high school, the failure to complete the specified TOPS core curriculum course was due solely to the student's diagnosed disability.

Note: All documentation must be maintained at the high school for audit purposes. The certification is through STS.

Q-2. If the recommended accommodation is for the student not to take the course, and the 504 Plan reflects the school's acceptance of the accommodation, is it acceptable for the principal to certify that the reason that the student did not complete the course was due solely to the student's disability?

A. Yes. If a student does not take a course under this circumstance, this is acceptable. If the student ignores the recommendation and attempts the course, and then drops the course due to the disability, the result would be the same.

Q-3. Is the high school required to report a course if a student is diagnosed with a disability, the high school provides special accommodations and the student earns a "D" or "C" in the course?

A. Yes. A student with a disability cannot be granted a waiver for a course which was attempted and passed with a "C" or "D" in the course.

Q-4. We have a deaf student who is taking signing courses. Will these courses fulfill the foreign language requirement?

A. Yes, but only if the course is the BESE approved American Sign Language.

Q-5. Will LOSFA waive ACT/SAT scores for a child with ADD or ADHD or another disability?

A. No. The minimum ACT score is established by the TOPS statute and cannot be waived. However, the student may apply to ACT, Inc./SAT for special testing accommodations.

Q-6. Will LOSFA waive the TOPS Cumulative High School Grade Point Average for a child with ADD?

A. No. The minimum TOPS Cumulative High School Grade Point Average of 2.50 is established in the TOPS statute and there is no provision for waiver.

Q-7. I have a student who qualifies for a disability waiver of a TOPS core curriculum course(s). How do I enter the disability information into STS to obtain the waiver for the student?

The data element letter grade code must be “E”, the core curriculum waiver flag must be “Y”, and the course part number must be blank. Records with “E” must be submitted as whole records.

STUDENTS WITH EXCEPTIONALITIES

Q-1. Does a student with an exceptionality have to take all of the TOPS core curriculum units? If not, what documentation must they provide?

A. TOPS core curriculum requirements may be waived for a student defined as an exceptional child in accordance with R.S. 17:1943(4), excluding gifted and talented. To obtain a waiver, the high school must certify to LOSFA that it has on file in the school records the following documents:

1. A written Individual Education Program (IEP) in accordance with R.S. 17:1941 et seq. and Louisiana Department of Education Bulletin 1706, and
2. A written statement from the principal of the high school that the failure to complete the specified core curriculum course was due solely to the student’s exceptionality.

Q-2. If the IEP is for the student not to take the course, is it acceptable for the principal to certify that the reason that the student did not complete the course was due solely to the student’s exceptionality?

A. Yes. If a student does not take a course under this circumstance, this is acceptable. If the student ignores the recommendation and attempts the course, and then drops the course due to the exceptionality, the result would be the same.

Q-3. Is the high school required to report a course if an exceptional student’s IEP provides special accommodations and the student earns a “D” or “C” in the course?

A. Yes. A student with an exceptionality cannot be granted a waiver for a course which was attempted and passed with a “C” or “D” in the course.