

# Graduation Information for Students with Disabilities

## Standard Diploma Four-Year, 24-Credit Standard Diploma Option:

- **earn a minimum of 24 credits in required courses**
- **earn passing grades in required courses (either standard or access points)**
- **have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 upon graduation**
- **earn passing scores or receive assessment waivers on required statewide assessments as defined by the Florida Department of Education\***
- **earn passing scores on end-of-course assessments in required subject areas\***

## Merit Designation

As part of the course work required for graduation, students must obtain one or more industry certifications.

## Scholar Designation

As part of the course work required for graduation, students must complete advanced academic course work including Algebra II, Statistics or equally rigorous math, Chemistry or Physics, two years of the same World Language, and one credit in AP, IB, or dual enrollment. Additionally, specific course assessments are required.

## Three-Year, 18-Credit Options:

A three year, 18-credit option for a standard diploma is available. See a school counselor for specific information and requirements.

## Additional Graduation Options

Other graduation opportunities may be available for high school students through the district's adult education and graduation enhancement programs. See a school counselor for specific information and requirements.

## Assessment Waivers EOC Waiver

Students with disabilities may be considered for an end-of-course assessment waiver if they meet all of the following criteria:

- **have an active individual educational plan (IEP)**
  - **have taken the end-of-course assessment with appropriate, allowable accommodations at least once**
  - **have demonstrated achievement of course standards**
- \* **FCAT/FSA/FSAA and end-of course assessment requirements vary based on when the student entered ninth grade. See a school counselor for specific information and requirements.**

## FSA/FSAA/FCAT Waiver

Students with disabilities may be considered for a waiver of the FSA/FSAA/FCAT graduation requirement if they meet all of the following criteria:

- **have an active individual educational plan (IEP)**
- **have taken the FSA/FSAA/FCAT with appropriate, allowable accommodations at least once**
- **demonstrate mastery of the grade 10 Florida Standards**

## FSA/FCAT Waiver

Students may participate in FSA/FCAT each time the assessment is administered, including March of the senior year to ensure that students have had every opportunity to pass.

## FSAA Waiver

A graduation portfolio is required for an FSAA Waiver. Classroom work samples and course grades must be included in the graduation portfolio.

In order for the FSA/FSAA/FCAT requirement to be waived, the IEP team must determine that the FSA/FSAA/FCAT cannot accurately measure abilities, even if all appropriate, allowable testing accommodations are used. Obtaining an FSA/FSAA/FCAT Waiver does not ensure graduation. Students must meet all graduation requirements.

## Graduation Deferment

Students with disabilities may be eligible to defer receipt of the standard high school diploma and continue to receive services through public education. This decision must be made the year in which the student is expected to graduate.

### Options available for deferment include:

- Accelerated college credit instruction
- Industry certification courses that lead to college credit
- Collegiate high school program
- Courses necessary to satisfy the Scholar designation requirements
- Structured work-study, internship, or pre-apprenticeship program

Benefits for deferral will vary depending on the individual student needs and program selected. Generally, deferral allows the student to have access to college course work, provides vocational training, preparation for college admission, or job skills training.

### Programs available include:

1. **Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment courses offered through the student's high school**
2. **Advanced academic courses offered through the student's high school**
3. **Career academies offered through various high schools**
4. **Participation in ESE transition education programs to learn job skills through work experiences and training**

In order to participate in the various programs students must demonstrate qualification by meeting eligibility requirements of the individual programs.

## Who Can Help?

Contact your school counselor,  
ESE teacher or Job Placement/  
Transition Specialist

### Pasco County Schools

**Kurt S. Browning**  
Superintendent of Schools

### District School Board of Pasco County

**Allen Altman**  
District 1

**Colleen Beaudoin**  
District 2

**Cynthia Armstrong**  
District 3

**Alison Crumbley**  
District 4

**Steve Luikart**  
District 5

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Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding discrimination or harassment may be sent to:

Sandra May, Equity Manager/Title IX Coordinator  
7227 Land O' Lakes Blvd. • Land O' Lakes, FL 34638  
(813) 794-2679 • (813) 794-2119 FAX  
smay@pasco.k12.fl.us

### Student Support Programs and Services

7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard • Land O' Lakes, FL 34638  
Central (813) 794-2600  
East (352) 524-2600  
West (727) 774-2600  
www.pascoschools.org

# Graduation Information



## for Students with Disabilities



**Pasco County Schools**

Providing a world-class education for all students

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools