

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 17, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 7, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 22, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 14, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 1999

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1062

Introduced by Assembly Member Margett
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Cardenas, Havice, Leach,
Longville, Robert Pacheco, Steinberg, and Washington)
~~(Coauthor: Senator Alpert)~~
(Coauthors: Senators Alpert and Vasconcellos)

February 25, 1999

An act to add Chapter 4.1 (commencing with Section 56375) to Part 30 of the Education Code, relating to special education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1062, as amended, Margett. Special education.

Existing law prohibits a diploma, certificate, or other document, except transcripts and letters of recommendation, from being conferred on a pupil as evidence of completion of a prescribed course of study or training, or of satisfactory attendance, unless the pupil has met the standards of

proficiency in basic skills prescribed by the governing board of the high school district, or equivalent thereof. Existing related regulations require the award of a diploma to an individual with exceptional needs who meets public agency requirements for completion of a prescribed course of study and adopted proficiency standards.

This bill would authorize the award of a certificate or document of educational achievement to an individual with exceptional needs who meets certain criteria. The bill would also require that an individual with exceptional needs who meets the criteria for a certificate or document of educational achievement is eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a pupil of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate.

The bill would require the Advisory Commission on Special Education, on or before July 1, 2000, to report to the State Board of Education, the Superintendent, the Legislature, and the Governor on the practice of awarding certificates or documents of educational achievement and diplomas to individuals with exceptional needs.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares
 2 that individuals with exceptional needs are not being
 3 appropriately recognized when they complete their
 4 schooling by means of an alternative course of study, or
 5 when they satisfactorily meet the goals and objectives in
 6 their individualized education program, or have
 7 satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the
 8 instruction prescribed in their individualized education
 9 program and have met their individualized education
 10 program transition plan.

11 (b) The Legislature further finds and declares that
 12 individuals with exceptional needs are often excluded
 13 from participation in graduation ceremonies and related
 14 activities even though they have achieved or completed



1 what was prescribed in their individualized education
2 program during their high school years.

3 (c) It is ~~therefore~~, *therefore*, the intent of the
4 Legislature that Chapter 4.1 (commencing with Section
5 56375) be added to Part 30 of the Education Code to
6 recognize the educational achievement or completion of
7 individuals with exceptional needs when they complete
8 high school and allow these individuals to participate in
9 graduation ceremonies and related activities along with
10 their nondisabled peers.

11 SEC. 2. Chapter 4.1 (commencing with Section
12 56375) is added to Part 30 of the Education Code, to read:

13
14 CHAPTER 4.1. RECOGNITION FOR EDUCATIONAL
15 ACHIEVEMENT OR COMPLETION OF PROGRAM
16

17 56375. Notwithstanding Section 51412 or any other
18 provision of law, a local educational agency may award an
19 individual with exceptional needs a certificate or
20 document of educational achievement or completion if
21 the requirements of subdivision (a), (b), or (c) are met.

22 (a) The individual has satisfactorily completed a
23 prescribed alternative course of study approved by the
24 governing board of the school district in which the
25 individual attended school or the school district with
26 jurisdiction over the individual and identified in his or her
27 individualized education program.

28 (b) The individual has satisfactorily met his or her
29 individualized education program goals and objectives
30 during high school as determined by the individualized
31 education program team.

32 (c) The individual has satisfactorily attended high
33 school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his
34 or her individualized education program, and has met the
35 objectives of the statement of transition services.

36 56376. An individual with exceptional needs who
37 meets the criteria for a certificate or document described
38 in Section 56375 shall be eligible to participate in any
39 graduation ceremony and any school activity related to
40 graduation in which a pupil of similar age without

1 disabilities would be eligible to participate. The right to
2 participate in graduation ceremonies does not equate a
3 certificate or document described in Section 56375 with
4 a regular high school diploma.

5 56377. It is not the intent of the Legislature by
6 enacting this chapter to eliminate the opportunity for an
7 individual with exceptional needs to earn a standard
8 diploma issued by a local or state educational agency
9 when the pupil has completed the prescribed course of
10 study and has passed the proficiency requirements with
11 or without differential standards pursuant to Section
12 51215.

13 56378. On or before July 1, 2000, the Advisory
14 Commission on Special Education shall, pursuant to
15 Section 33595, study and report to the State Board of
16 Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the
17 Legislature, and the Governor on the practice of
18 awarding certificates or documents of educational
19 achievement or completion and diplomas, as appropriate,
20 to individuals with exceptional needs. The report shall
21 contain recommendations for improving the system of
22 recognition for educational achievement or completion
23 of studies to individuals with exceptional needs.

