

**South Carolina High School Credential  
District Policies and Procedures**

**School Year: 2018-2019**

**Spartanburg School District Six**

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## **Introduction and Purpose**

South Carolina has roughly 100,000 students with disabilities serviced under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), of which the majority are able to earn a state high school diploma. Given the varying levels of student achievement, as well as the inability to complete required high school coursework, there is a need to provide an alternative option for students with disabilities to demonstrate their ability to transition into the work community. The uniform state-recognized South Carolina High School Credential will be aligned to a newly created course of study for these students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines this course of study is appropriate.

To align with the State's Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, an opportunity that will assist these students in acquiring skills necessary to be successful after high school is critical. The purpose of S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-39-100 and State Board of Education Reg. 43-235 is to provide equitable job-readiness opportunities for these students throughout the state, ensure they have evidence of employability skills, and honor the work they have undertaken in our public schools.

State Board of Education Reg. 43-235, as governed by S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-39-100, promulgates the program components and criteria for a state-recognized South Carolina High School Credential for applicable students with disabilities for whom such a credential is appropriate.

Pursuant to the statutory requirements in S.C. Ann., Section 59-39-100, beginning in the 2018–19 school year, students with disabilities entering grade nine may attain a uniform diploma through one of the recognized personalized pathways; or may attain a uniform South Carolina High School Credential. Nothing restricts any student from obtaining a state high school diploma. Nothing contained in this regulation restricts local school boards of trustees from awarding students with a certificate of attendance for students with disabilities who do not meet the requirements for earning either a state high school diploma or a state South Carolina High School Credential. In addition, nothing contained in this regulation restricts local school boards of trustees from awarding students a local occupational certificate

Beginning no earlier than the end of the student's eighth grade academic school year, or later if deemed appropriate by the student's IEP team, and updated annually thereafter, the IEP team must determine if the student's expected high school outcome will be to attain a state high school diploma or a state-recognized South Carolina High School Credential. The course of study identified in the IEP must match this determination.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE), as the State Educational Agency (SEA); all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs); all State-Operated Programs (SOPs); and all other public programs providing special education and related services as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) must follow and comply with all statutory and regulatory requirements of the IDEA as outlined in 20 U.S.C. Section 1400 et seq., and the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Chapter 34, Part 300. In addition to the statutory and regulatory requirements to which the state adheres, Reg. 43-235 further delineates requirements for attaining a state-recognized South Carolina High School Credential.

This policy defines the requirements for attaining a state-recognized South Carolina High School Credential in Spartanburg School District Six.

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## **A. FAPE and IEP requirements**

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The decision to accept the South Carolina High School Credential does not relieve the LEA or SOP from providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to the student until age 21 as defined in Reg. 43-243(III)(B) or until the student receives a regular high school diploma as defined in 34 C.F.R 300.102(a)(3)(iv).

The LEA or SOP must explain and provide annual written notice to the parent, guardian, or adult student that the South Carolina High School Credential is not a state high school diploma. For the purposes of this part, an adult student is defined as a student who has reached the age of majority as outlined in Reg. 43-242(III)(F)(1).

An IEP team's decision to identify the South Carolina High School Credential as the student's expected high school outcome must be based on data to include, but not be limited to, longitudinal information of student grades, standardized achievement assessments, informal and formal transition assessments, adaptive behavior assessments, and work readiness assessments. The decision must be made only after the IEP team considers a continuum of program options that may allow the student to pursue a diploma.

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## **B. Course Requirements**

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**Minimal Course Requirements:** The South Carolina High School Credential is designed for students with disabilities for whom the IEP team determined mastery of a career-based educational program that includes academics, independent work experience, daily living skills, and self-determination skill competencies is the most appropriate way to demonstrate his or her skills and provide a FAPE. To attain the South Carolina High School Credential, the student must meet the graduation requirements of one unit of physical education/health (or equivalent) and one unit of technology course; a student must adhere to the local attendance policy; and a student must complete a total of 24 earned units that include the following:

- (a) Course work aligned with the South Carolina College and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts (four units), Mathematics (four units), Science (two units), and Social Studies (two units);
- (b) Four units of Employability Education; and
- (c) Six electives.

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### **C. Minimal Required Components**

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In addition to completing coursework outlined in Section B, to receive a South Carolina High School Credential, a student must:

- (a) Complete a career portfolio that includes a multimedia presentation project;
- (b) Obtain work readiness assessment results that demonstrate the student is ready for competitive employment;

The district has approved the following means of completing the minimal required components as part of the South Carolina High School Credential:

- 4 units English/Language Arts
- 4 units Math
- 1 unit Physical Science
- 1 unit Biology
- 1 unit History
- 1 unit Economics/Government
- 1 unit Physical Education
- 1 unit Technology course
- 4 units Employability Education
- 6 units elective courses
  
- 24 total units

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## **D. Work-Based Training and Learning**

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In addition to completing coursework outlined in Section B and minimally required components in Section C, in order to receive a South Carolina High School Credential a student must complete work-based learning/training that totals at least 360 hours, in which:

- (a) Work-based learning/training may be school-based, community-based, and/or paid or unpaid employment;
- (b) Work-based learning/training must be aligned with the student's interests, preferences, and postsecondary goals and individual graduation plan; and
- (c) Paid employment must be at a minimum wage or above and in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act;

The district has approved the following means of completing the work-based training as part of the South Carolina High School Credential, which may include, but are not limited to:

The Cavalier Cup- student run coffee shop at Dorman Freshman Campus. Students bake/make all food items and beverages. During lunches they set up and sell items to student body and staff. In addition to set up and clean up, student must run the cash register and count money collected to turn in daily to staff.

Project Success- Project Success is a high school transition program that allows students that are not earning a traditional high school diploma to gain valuable, transferable job skills. The program is similar to Project SEARCH, but the location of training will be on District Six campuses. The skills learned range from gardening, working in the cafeteria, maintenance, to assisting in the media center.

Vocational Rehabilitation Work Training Center- DHS students have the opportunity to be transported to the Work Training Center at VR for job skills training. This opportunity typically lasts a semester and students are at the training center for 2-4 hours.

Project SEARCH- Project SEARCH is a unique, business-led transition program designed for students with developmental disabilities, particularly youth transitioning from high school to adult life. Students attend the program for a full school year in the host business, located on Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System's main campus. The hospital provides access to an onsite classroom that accommodates up to 12 students. In addition to classroom learning, students master core skills through three 10-week internship rotations during the school year. The students acquire competitive, marketable and transferable skills to enable them to apply for a range of jobs in which they can be successful.

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## **E. Monitoring Student Progress**

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This district will use the following mechanisms for monitoring students' progress toward attainment of the South Carolina High School Credential:

Data collection which measures progress towards the Credential will be monitored through electronic portfolio, IGP, IEPs.

The district will use the following mechanisms for monitoring proportionate numbers of South Carolina High School Credentials relative to the LEAs or SOPS' students with disabilities student count and graduation rate:

This information will be monitored through Enrich and data obtained in the electronic portfolio. Caseloads in Enrich for specific teachers (that have Credential students on their caseload) will be cross referenced with the electronic portfolios. Each semester, teachers will turn in their caseloads with students identified as South Carolina High School Credential or District Credential. If disproportionality is discovered, the Special Education Administrative Team will meet with the High School Staff to evaluate each student's file to determine appropriate course of action for individual students.

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## **F. Entering the South Carolina High School Course of Study**

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The district uses the following procedures to enter a student into the South Carolina High School Course of Study:

Action	Position Responsible	Timeline
Collect Data	SPED Case Managers and School Guidance Counselors No later than 8th Grade	SPED Case Managers and School Guidance Counselors No later than 8th Grade
Convene an IEP meeting	SPED Case Managers	At IEP annual review in 8th Grade
Review Present Levels	SPED Case Managers At IEP annual review in 8th Grade	SPED Case Managers At IEP annual review in 8th Grade
Determine Course of Study	IEP Team (including parents and student), Guidance Counselor At IEP annual review in 8th Grade	IEP Team (including parents and student), Guidance Counselor At IEP annual review in 8th Grade
Parental Acknowledgment	SPED Case Manager At IEP annual review in 8th Grade	SPED Case Manager At IEP annual review in 8th Grade and annually thereafter.
Progress Monitor	SPED Case Managers/IEP Team At IEP annual review in 8th Grade and every grade thereafter	SPED Case Managers/IEP Team At IEP annual review in 8th Grade and every grade thereafter

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## **G. Portfolio Transitions**

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The district uses the following procedures for transitioning portfolios throughout the years of the course of study:

Action	Position Responsible	Timeline
Determine method of storage	Electronic storage on Google Drive or One Drive, in addition to paper copies in binders	9th grade begins data collection, with new items uploaded or copied monthly. This should be an ongoing data collection from 9-12 grades
Ensure transfer with student records	Case manager, special services office staff	Upon request of records transfer

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## **H. Completion of the South Carolina High School Credential**

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The district uses the following procedures to ensure a student's completion of the South Carolina High School Credential Course of Study:

Action	Position Responsible	Timeline
Completes Credential requirements	SPED teacher and student	Prior to graduation
Completion Notice	SPED teacher	Prior to graduation
Update Summary of Performance	SPED teacher, IEP team, and school psychologist	Prior to graduation
Submit appropriate data to district for reporting	Guidance counselor	Data submitted prior to graduation, same as diploma