



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

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Information Only

TO: All Secondary Principals

FROM: Janis Andrews, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer *J.A.*

SUBJECT: ONLINE COURSE REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION AND ESE STUDENTS

One of the provisions of House Bill 7063, Digital Learning, amends section 1003.428(2)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), relating to the online graduation requirement for the 24-credit general requirements for high school graduation option. This revision provides exemptions for meeting the online course graduation requirement for students who have Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) that indicate an online course would not be appropriate or for students who have been enrolled in a Florida high school for one year or less.

Since many students with disabilities will be accessing online instruction in a postsecondary setting, it is of critical importance that efforts be made to support the participation of students with disabilities pursuing a standard diploma in the online course requirement. IEP teams should:

- follow the same guidelines for developing a quality IEP for online learning environments as they do for face-to-face learning environments
- consider supports, services, accessible instructional materials (AIMs), assistive technologies, and accommodations the student will need to participate in an online learning environment

If the IEP team decides that a student does not have sufficient time to become proficient using online tools for the coming school year, the IEP team should include goals, supports, services, and AIMs in the IEP. Including these items in the IEP will assist the student to become proficient in the use of the technologies needed for future participation in an online course.

For all middle and high school grade levels, IEP teams should start considering the services, supports, technologies, and accommodations a student will need for online learning. This can be a part of the consideration of what a student will need to complete online End-of-Course (EOC) assessments and other online tests successfully.

The following link provides frequently asked questions related to the online course graduation requirement:
<http://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-6583/dps-2012-179a.pdf>.

EWG/JA/KO/WJG/JM:jb

Approved: 
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent

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