Policy on Differential Graduation and Competency Standards and Certificates of Educational Achievement for Students with Disabilities

Clarksville Charter School is committed to identifying and serving students who have exceptional needs and are eligible to receive special education supports and services. Our commitment is based on the belief that all students shall have access to a high-quality public education.

The purpose of the Clarksville Charter School Governing Board approving this Policy on Differential Graduation and Competency Standards and Certificates of Educational Achievement for Students with Disabilities is to accomplish the following:

1. Outline the Instruction for Students with Disabilities
2. Establish the High School Diploma and Certificate of Educational Achievement / Completion

1. Instruction: Clarksville Charter School ("Charter School") recognizes that students with disabilities are entitled to a course of study that provides them with a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and that modifications to the district's regular course may be needed on an individualized basis to provide FAPE. In accordance with law, each student's individualized education program (IEP) team shall determine the appropriate goals, as well as any appropriate individual accommodations necessary for measuring the academic achievement and functional performance of the student on state and Charter wide assessments. The IEP team shall also determine the appropriate graduation track for each student with a disability based on the student's ability to complete the Charter School's prescribed course of study to earn a high school diploma.

No student shall be classified as eligible for differential standards of proficiency for the purpose of circumventing the legal requirement to maintain academic eligibility for extracurricular or cocurricular activities.

2. **High School Diploma and Certificate of Educational Achievement /Completion:** Instead of a high school diploma, a student with exceptional needs may be awarded a certificate or document of educational achievement or completion if the student has met one of the following requirements:

(a) The student has satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Board of Education of the school district which the student attended or the district with jurisdiction over the student as identified in his/her IEP; or

(b) The student has satisfactorily achieved his or her IEP goals and objectives during high school as determined by the IEP team; or

(c) The student has satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction specified in his or her IEP, and has met the objectives of the statement of transition services.

A student with disabilities who meets any of the criteria specified above shall be eligible to participate in any graduation ceremony and any school activity related to graduation in which a graduating student of similar age without disabilities would be eligible to participate.

In addition, the Executive Director or designee shall ensure that the student will continue to have access to special education related supports and services until the student meets Charter School's criteria to receive a high school diploma or until age 22.

Whether a student receives a certificate of completion or a diploma is confidential. The Charter School does not inform other students whether their peers are receiving a certificate or a diploma, and all students will participate equally graduation ceremonies and activities.

Legal References: EDUCATION CODE
56341   Individualized Education Program Team
56345 Elements of the Individualized Education Program Team
56390-56393 Recognition for Educational Achievement or Completion of Program
60850-60859 High School Exit Exam

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
3070   Graduation
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20
1400-1482 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34
300.1-300.818 Individuals with Disabilities Education act, especially:
300.20   Definition of IEP

Adopted/Ratified: [INSERT]
Revision Date: [INSERT]