



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

AB 181



What is AB 181?

(The Education Omnibus Budget Trailer Bill)

- Among other things, AB 181 amends the California Education Code to add a new high school diploma pathway for students with “exceptional needs” by creating additional programs, etc.

Importance of AB 181

What does it do?

- Providing an alternate diploma has the potential to help increase graduation rates for students with disabilities.
- This helps bridge the education gap for students with these needs

Who is Eligible?



- The California Education Code defines an “individual with exceptional needs” per the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), which includes individuals with intellectual disabilities, hearing impairments, speech or language impairments, etc.
- These students can graduate through this alternate program if they (1) take the alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards in grade 11; and (2) complete state standards aligned coursework to meet the statewide coursework requirements.
- Only students who entered ninth grade in the 2022–23 school year or later are eligible for this diploma.



For any inquiries regarding this diploma pathway, you can contact your IEP team; the Special Education Division at (916) 445-4613 or CDESPEDDIRECTOR@cde.ca.gov; or your local educational agency