

January 25, 2024


**AUTHORIZE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR POLICY ON AWARDING CREDITS AND DIPLOMAS TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ENROLLED IN NON-PUBLIC PROGRAMS STARTING JANUARY 26, 2024**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board authorize the commencement of the Public Comment Period from January 26, 2024 to February 26, 2024 for the Policy described in the disposition table below. Pursuant to Board Rule 2-6(c), the Board must authorize the commencement of the Public Comment Period.

Current Policy Section/ Current Policy Title	New Policy Section/ New Policy Title	Description of Revision/Disposition
605.8 Awarding Credits and Diplomas to Students With Disabilities Enrolled in Non-Public School Programs	N/A	<p>Amend 605.8, Awarding Credits and Diplomas to Students With Disabilities Enrolled in Non-Public School Programs</p> <p>This policy is being updated pursuant to Board Rule 2-6's required biennial review. The policy changes align with the district's current requirements for obtaining elementary and high school diplomas. Additionally, the amended policy will explicitly state that students attending non-public schools will receive the diploma from Chicago Public Schools.</p>

Approved as to Legal Form: 

DocuSigned by:  
  
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**Ruchi Verma**  
 General Counsel

Approved:

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**Pedro Martinez**  
 Chief Executive Officer

**Policy/Board Rule Summary Form**

Policy/Board Rule Being Amended/Created	Policy Manager(s)
Awarding Credits and Diplomas to Students With Disabilities Enrolled in Non-Public School Programs	Office of Diverse Learners Supports and Services

1. Why is this policy/Board rule being amended, created, or rescinded now? (e.g., state legislation, compliance change, policy was out of date, biennial policy review, CEO/CEdO recommendation, etc.)

The policy is out of date.

2. Please provide a high level summary of what policy/Board rule changes are being made, or created, and why.

The policy changes align with the district's current requirements for obtaining elementary and high school diplomas. Additionally, the amended policy will explicitly state that students attending non-public schools will receive the diploma from Chicago Public Schools.

3. Please provide any notable feedback from internal or external stakeholders, and how you addressed it or planned to address it in your policy/Board rule draft.

We met with stakeholders from the Law Department and OSHW, and there were no concerns.

4. Please provide any additional notes/considerations in the box below.

There are no additional notes or considerations.

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 96-0626-PO1  
AWARDING CREDITS AND DIPLOMAS TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ENROLLED IN NON-PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board amend Board Report 96-0626-PO1, Awarding Credits and Diplomas to Students with Disabilities Enrolled in Non-Public Programs.

**POLICY TEXT:**

Consistent with current principles of local school accountability and 23 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle A 1.44g, the following procedures are designed to apply for all students being considered for graduation who are enrolled in non-public school programs.

**High School**

Credits shall be evaluated and awarded by the ~~last~~ current high school attended by the student or, if the student never attended a Chicago public high school, the high school within whose boundaries the student resides (attendance area high school). ~~Pursuant to 23 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle A 1.44g which designates the Individualized Education Program (IEP) as the determinant of the course of study for students with disabilities, u~~Upon completion of requirements for high school graduation, ~~as indicated in the IEP,~~ a diploma shall be awarded by ~~the attendance area high school~~ Chicago Public Schools. Chicago Public Schools Credits of students who return to a Chicago public school prior to graduation will be evaluated and awarded by the attendance area high school. The high school graduation requirements can be found at <https://www.cps.edu/academics/graduation-requirements/>.

**Elementary School**

Elementary school diplomas will be awarded upon the ~~recommendation of the IEP~~ completion of graduation requirements set forth by the district. The diploma shall be awarded by the last school attended by the student or, if the student never attended a Chicago public school, the ~~attendance area elementary school~~. Chicago Public Schools.

**Development of Procedures**

Operational procedures for forwarding and reviewing the request for a diploma will be developed by the ~~Department of Specialized Services~~ Office of Diverse Learners Supports and Services, along with local school and regional staff.