FAQ: Impact of Eliminating

Certificates of Completion in Florida (2025)

What are Certificates of Completion?
Certificates of Completion (COCs) were issued to students who completed high school coursework but did not meet all graduation requirements, such as passing standardized tests or achieving the required 2.0 GPA.

Why did Florida eliminate Certificates of Completion?
Florida passed **House Bill 1105**, which amended state law to remove the option of awarding COCs to ensure students graduate with a Standard High School Diploma that reflects readiness for college, career, or the military. The change is part of an effort to align with **Florida Statute 1003.4282**, which outlines the requirements for high school graduation.

What alternatives are available for students who previously received COCs?
Florida has expanded diploma pathways, including:

- Academic and employment-based diploma combining coursework and job experience.
- 18-credit ACCEL pathway focused on core academics.
- Standard diploma via access points for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

How does this change affect students with disabilities?
Students with disabilities are still entitled to Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) through age 22 and can pursue a Standard Diploma, Standard Diploma using Access Points or other accommodations as defined in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Are there *assessment waivers* available for students with disabilities?
Yes—Florida law allows waivers for state testing requirements for students with disabilities.

Will students who don't meet diploma requirements be left without options?
No. HB 1105 requires districts to offer a **fifth-year program** for students who would have qualified for a COC. This allows additional time for remediation and support to meet diploma criteria.

What should educators and families do now?

- Review IEPs and update graduation goals.
- Attend IEP and guidance meetings.
- Ensure transition goals and services are reflected in the IEP
- Explore alternative diploma pathways.
- Advocate for additional resources and support programs.
- Stay informed about new developments from the FDOE.

Where can I find more information?
Visit these official sources:

- **FLDOE Graduation Requirements**: https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/standarddiplomarequirements.pdf
- **Rule 6A-1.09963, F.A.C.**: https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-1.09963
- **Parent resources from FDLRS**: https://www.fdlrs.org
- **Disability Rights Florida**: https://www.disabilityrightsflorida.org
  Project 10: **Transition Education Network**: https://project10.info/