south dakota
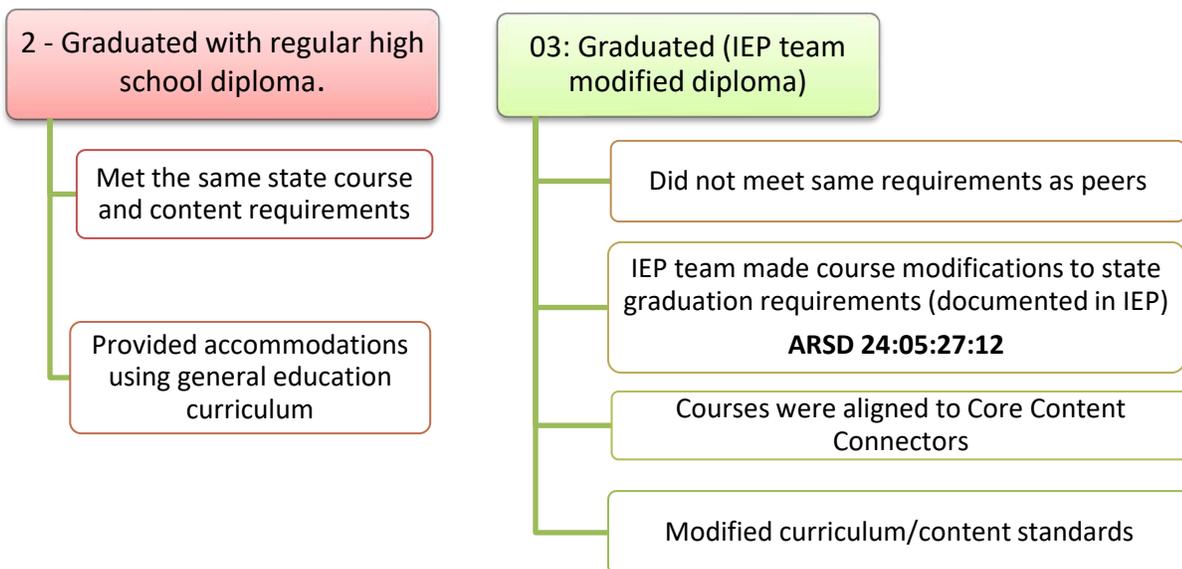**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
Learning. Leadership. Service.

Graduation Coding Guidance

Districts must accurately code students on an IEP who are awarded a diploma based on how the state's graduation requirements were met. According to ARSD 24:05:27:12. Graduation requirements: It states "**The IEP team may modify the specific units of credit described in § 24:43:11:02.**". If the diploma is modified and not fully aligned, the student is still eligible for special education until either the student meets the same requirements as all students or ages out. Districts must accurately identify in the special education exit code whether the student received a diploma that met the same requirements as all students or if requirements were modified. The state must submit accurate data to federal Office of Special Education Programs and under Every Student Succeeds Act on the number of students that met the regular diploma requirements.

Key information:

- Only one diploma in South Dakota
- Student can receive a diploma at any age, even at 21 years old.

Two questions for districts to answer about student:

1. Did the student take the same course requirements as all students?
2. Did the student learn the same course content standards but utilized accommodations?

2 - Graduated with regular high school diploma.	03: Graduated (IEP team modified diploma)
Met the same state course and content requirements	Did not meet same requirements as peers
Provided accommodations using general education curriculum	IEP team made course modifications to state graduation requirements (documented in IEP) **ARSD 24:05:27:12**
	Courses were aligned to Core Content Connectors
	Modified curriculum/content standards

Resources:

State Graduation Requirements: http://doe.sd.gov/octe/gradrequirements.aspx
Administrative Rules of South Dakota IEP Graduation Requirements
State Reporting Document: http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/SIMSreport.pdf
Student Data Collections Desk Guide: Exit code cross walk: http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/sims.aspx

Updated 8.22.2018

Course Modifications

The IEP team should consider including someone with knowledge of the requirements for graduation when developing a course of study for the student.

Two questions for districts to answer about student:
1. Did the student take the same course requirements as all students?
2. Did the student learn the same course content standards but utilized accommodations?

Would the district allow the course for any student to receive a diploma?

- If yes, then it meets graduation requirement as same aged peers.
- **Sped Exit Code in Campus: 2** - Graduated with regular high school diploma (refer previous page)
- Example:
  - Student takes same course with only accommodations

If no, does the option still require student meet all same standards/expectations as all students?

- If yes, then student still meets the same expectation as peers**.**
- The course has accommodations for the student.
- **Sped Exit Code in Campus: 2** - Graduated with regular high school diploma (refer previous page)
- Example:
  - The course is over two years and still meets all same content requirements.
  - Course taught in resource room and still meets all same course/content standards

If no, the course is a modification or does not meet the same standards/expectations as all students.

- Then the student will be a **Sped Exit Code in Campus: 03 -** Graduated (IEP team modified diploma) (refer to previous page)
- Example:
  - Course is developed from core content connectors
  - Course will not be allowed for all students to receive a diploma.
  - Content standards are modified to meet needs of child.