

Alternate Diploma Collaborative

March 24, 2023



OKLAHOMA
Education



Alternate Diploma Collaborative Topics

- March 24 - What To Do For Students Graduating 22/23, 23/24, and beyond
- March 31 - Nuts and Bolts of developing an 18-22 program
- April 7 - Next Steps
- April 14 - IDEA Paperwork and EDPlan
- April 21 – Oklahoma's Got Talent
- April 28 – Oklahoma's Got Talent

March 10, 2023 Recap

- A regular diploma is fully aligned to the Oklahoma Academic Standards.
- Students taught to alternate standards and assessed under OAAP shall not earn a regular diploma.
- A state-defined Alternate Diploma is issued at upon meeting the graduation requirements for an Alternate Diploma (typically at the end of 12th grade).

March 10, 2023 Recap - 2

- A state-defined Alternate Diploma does not end the LEA obligation to provide a FAPE as a regular diploma does.
- LEAs must offer students who earn an Alternate Diploma a FAPE through the end of the school year in which they turn 22.
- IEP teams make the decision when the student will no longer return for a FAPE.

Implications of HB 1041

HB 1041 – Alternate Diploma

- This legislation creates a **graduation pathway** for students who are taught to alternate standards and assessed by alternate assessment.
- Without the legislation, there is no pathway to graduation for these students.
- In the event that HB 1041 does not pass, there will be no graduation pathway for students assessed by the OAAP.
- Either way, districts will still be obligated to provide a FAPE through the school year in which the student turns 22.

HB 1041 – Alternate Diploma

- Pending the legislative passage of HB 1041, the alternate diploma will be available for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Districts should make progress toward implementation of an alternate diploma pathway and subsequent programming in anticipation of the quick timeline.

How Are Students Graduated At The End Of 2022-2023 School Year, Prior To The Alternate Diploma?

For 2022-2023 School Year ONLY

- In the interim, school districts have a **one-time** option to provide a regular high school diploma for students participating in the OAAP
- If the district provides a regular high school diploma, this diploma will **NOT** end the district's obligation to provide a FAPE

School Year 2022-2023

- For students who have reached maximum age:
 - Students may be conferred a regular diploma and will exit.
- For students who have not reached maximum age:
 - IEP teams will make individualized decisions if the student will be conferred a regular diploma or wait to be conferred an alternate diploma in the 2023-2024 school year.
 - IEP teams will make individualized decisions if the student will return for a FAPE in the 2023-2024 school year.

School Year 2022-2023 - Options for 5th+ year high school students

- LEAs may confer a regular diploma to students participating in the OAAP who have earned all graduation credits and are **achieving maximum age** at the end of school year 2022-2023.
 - Note: For accountability purposes, this student will count as "not graduated".
- LEAs may confer a regular diploma to students participating in the OAAP whose IEP teams have determined they **will not return** for a FAPE in 2023-2024 school year.
 - Note: For accountability purposes this student will count as a "not graduated".

School Year 2022-2023 - Options for 5th+ year high school students 2

- LEAs may confer a regular diploma to students participating in the OAAP whose IEP teams have determined they **will return** for a FAPE in 2023-2024 school year.
 - Note: For accountability purposes this student will count as a "not graduated". There will be some credit for 5th or 6th year graduate for accountability purposes.
- LEAs may **wait** to confer **an alternate diploma in 2023-2024** school year for students participating in the OAAP.
 - Note: For accountability purposes this student will count as a "not graduated". There will be some credit for 5th or 6th year graduate for accountability purposes.

School Year 2022-2023

Options for 12th graders in their cohort

- LEAs may confer a regular diploma to students participating in the OAAP whose IEP teams have determined they **will not return** for a FAPE in 2023-2024 school year.
 - Note: For accountability purposes this student will count as a "not graduated".
- LEAs may confer a regular diploma to students participating in the OAAP whose IEP teams have determined they **will return** for a FAPE in 2023-2024 school year.
 - Note: For accountability purposes this student will count as a "not graduated". "Not graduated" status is removed if the student re-enrolls in the 2023-2024 school year, earns an alternate diploma, and is reassigned to the next cohort.
- LEAs may **wait** to confer an **alternate diploma in 2023-2024** school year.
 - Note: Note: For accountability purposes this student will count as a "not graduated". "Not graduated" status is removed if the student re-enrolls in a subsequent year, earns an alternate diploma, and is reassigned to the next cohort.

School Year 2022-2023 - Summary

- LEAs may confer a regular diploma to students participating in OAAP.
- Students participating in OAAP and being conferred a regular diploma will count as "not graduated" for accountability purposes
- Students participating in OAAP and being conferred regular diploma may participate in the graduation ceremony with their cohort.
- All students participating in OAAP who are age 21 or younger on or before September first **must** be offered continued enrollment for 2023-2024 school year to receive a FAPE.
- It is an IEP team decision if the student will return for one or more years of FAPE.

School Year 2022-2023 Bottom Line

- LEAs **must offer** a FAPE through continued enrollment through the maximum age, **even if** the student is conferred a regular diploma and participated in graduation ceremony for the 2022-2023 school year

What Will Happen 2023-2024 School Year?

Pending the passage of HB1041

School Year 2023-2024 Beginning of Year

- LEAs will continue the enrollment of students who elect to return to school in order to receive a FAPE following graduation.
- For the subsequent years of a FAPE following graduation, students may return for one, two, three, or four more years or until the student reaches maximum age.
- Students who continue enrollment will participate in courses that support life skills, career readiness skills, and transition services that are focused on improving their academic and functional achievement to facilitate the movement from school to post-school activities.
- (More information about this in the March 31st Alternate Diploma Collaborative)

School Year 2023-2024 End of Year

- Students who have earned all the required credits for an Alternate Diploma will be conferred an Alternate Diploma.
- In making this determination, LEA staff will
 - Substitute corresponding courses previously taken, including any general education courses.
 - Apply credits for any new alternate courses
 - Apply credits for any general education courses
- Students being conferred an Alternate Diploma may participate in the graduation ceremony with their cohort, even if they will return for a FAPE.

School Year 2023-2024 End of Year - 2

- IEP teams will make individualized decisions if the student will return for subsequent year(s) of a FAPE.
- Students who were conferred a regular high school diploma in 2022-2023 and returned for a FAPE should also be conferred an alternate diploma when the student has met the course requirements.
 - **Note:** For accountability purposes, this action will then count as a graduate.
- It is up to the LEA and family if the student will participate in a second graduation ceremony.

Subsequent Years

- LEAs will determine when the student has earned all the required credits for an Alternate Diploma and will confer an Alternate Diploma, typically at the end of 12th grade.
- IEP teams (that rely heavily on the preferences of families and students) will make a decision if the student will return for subsequent year(s) of a FAPE.

What Entry And Exit Codes Will Be Used?

Exit Codes 2022-2023

- **Use Exit Code 1926** Student has reached maximum age for services.
 - If the student has reached maximum age for services (with or without a diploma)
 - If the student turns 22 after September 1.

NOTE: For accountability purposes, there is no further effect on graduation or dropout rates with this code since the student did not graduate with their cohort at the end of 12th grade.

Exit Codes 2022-2023

- **Use Exit Code 3505** Exited End of School Year.
 - If the student is completing a 5th+ year of high school

NOTE: For accountability purposes, there is no further effect on graduation or dropout rates with this code since the student did not graduate with their cohort at the end of 12th grade.

Exit Codes 2022-2023

- **Use Exit Code: 1928** – Completed 12th grade (with cohort) - did not meet all graduation requirements
 - If the student did not complete the required number of credits for graduation
 - If the student is participating in OAAP and will graduate with a regular diploma and **will not return** for 23/24 school year
 - If the student is participating in OAAP and will graduate with a regular diploma and **will return** for 23/24 school year

(This code only applies to 12th graders in their cohort. Do not use for 5th + year high school students)

NOTE: The effect of this exit code is “not graduated” for accountability purposes. However, if the student returns in 23/24 without interruption, the student’s federal cohort can be changed and the student can earn the alternate diploma to count as graduated for 23/24, which will positively impact the 22/23 graduation rates for accountability.

Exit Codes 2023-2024

- **Use Exit Code 1928** – Student completed 12th grade (with cohort) but did not meet all graduation requirements (May be reassigned to a new cohort)
- **Use Exit Code 1926** – Reached Maximum Age for Services.
 - If the student is Exiting at maximum age with or without an alternate diploma
- **Use Exit Code 3505** - Exited End of School Year
 - If the student is completing the 5th + year of high school.

Exit Codes 2023-2024

- **Use Exit Code: 1921 HSA** – Graduate with an alternate diploma
 - If the student graduates with an alternate diploma
(This applies both to students who will return or will not return for FAPE in subsequent years.)

NOTE: The effect of this exit code is graduated with their cohort

There is an avenue available to adjust the federal cohort to the anticipated/actual graduation date for this student if the student does not complete the diploma during the 12th grade year, thus graduating with their new cohort.

Entry Codes 2023-2034

- **Use Entry Code: 1835** – No interruption in enrollment (Continue to use this entry code for subsequent years of enrollment.)
 - If the student was exited using code 1928 and then returns without interruption for the 23/24 school
 - If the student was exited using code 3505 and returns without interruption for the 23/24 school year for additional year(s) of high school

Note: If the student returns in 23/24 without interruption, the student's federal cohort can be adjusted and the student can earn the alternate diploma to count as graduated for 23/24, which will positively impact the 22/23 graduation rates for accountability.

Entry Codes 2023-2034

- **Use Entry Code 1836** – Re-entry after voluntary withdrawal/exit- with a “gap” in enrollment.
 - If the student was exited using code 1928 or 3505 and returned later than the beginning of the 23/24 school year.

NOTE: Gap is defined as entry 20 or more days after the beginning of the term or reentry after 10 or more days of non-enrollment during the school year.

Beyond 2023-2024

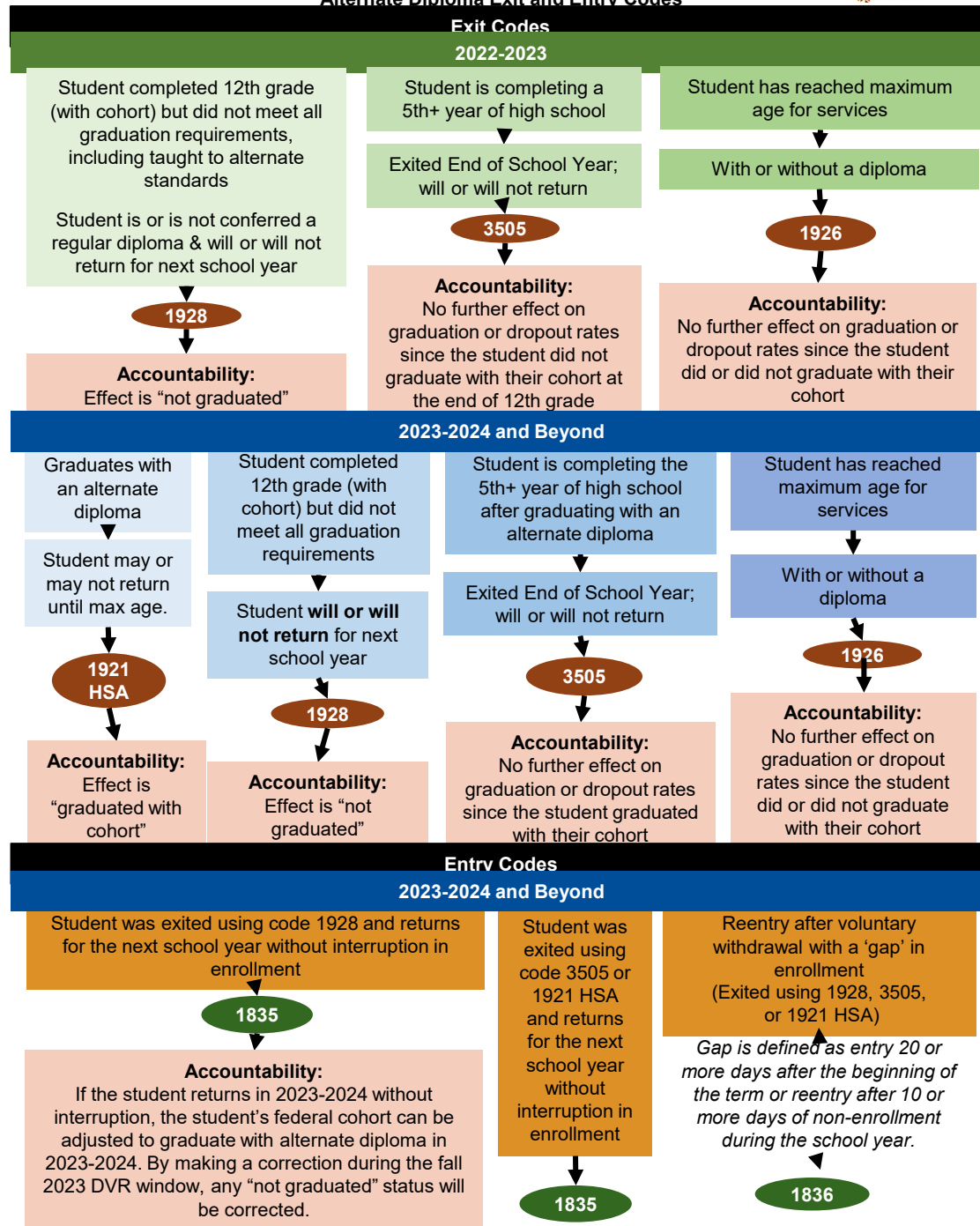
- **Entry**

- **Use Entry Code: 1835** – No interruption in enrollment
- **Use Entry Code 1836** – Re-entry after voluntary withdrawal- with a “gap” in enrollment

- **Exit**

- **Use Exit Code 1928** – Student completed 12th grade (with cohort) but did not meet all graduation requirements (May be reassigned to a new cohort)
- **Use Exit Code 1926** – Reached Maximum Age for Services
- **Use Exit Code 3505** - Exited End of School Year
- **Use Exit Code: 1921 HSA** – Graduated with an alternate diploma

Alternate Diploma Exit and Entry Codes



Summary

For Students Participating in OAAP

- Students given a regular diploma for school year 22-23 will be considered "not graduated" for accountability purposes, unless they reenroll for a FAPE in subsequent years and earn an alternate diploma.
- Students who complete their graduation credits for the alternate diploma in 23-24 will be conferred an Alternate Diploma.
- LEAs must offer a FAPE after graduating with a regular diploma or with an Alternate Diploma through the school year in which they turn 22.

Tune In Friday, March 31st to hear more about....

- Developing an 18-22 year old transition program