

OASIS · AT A GLANCE

The Summary of Performance

When eligibility ends by graduation or by age, IDEA requires the school to hand over one document. Most families never read it. Adult agencies will read it for years.

PILLAR: WHAT, WHEN, HOW | COMPANION TO BLOG POST B176 | 2-PAGE BRIEF

1

REQUIRED EXIT DOCUMENT

IDEA requires exactly one document when eligibility ends by diploma or by age. No exit evaluation. One summary of academic achievement and functional performance.

What the school owes on the last day

END, NO TEST, ONE PAGE

STAGE 1

Eligibility ends

A regular diploma or the state maximum age terminates the right to a free appropriate public education under 34 CFR 300.102.

→

STAGE 2

No evaluation is required

Under 34 CFR 300.305(e)(2), no evaluation is required before that termination. Whatever is in the file on exit day is what the file will always say.

→

STAGE 3

One document is required

34 CFR 300.305(e)(3) requires a summary of academic achievement and functional performance, with recommendations for meeting postsecondary goals.

What the template says, and what the reviewer needs

SAME STUDENT, DESCRIBED TWICE

The difference that survives an eligibility review

Adult systems do not fund achievement. They fund support. A summary that never describes support intensity documents a student who appears, on paper, to need very little.

DOMAIN	TYPICAL SUMMARY	USEFUL SUMMARY
Communication	Communicates using a device	Uses a speech generating device; an adult must retrieve and position it; answers with a verbal prompt about half the time
Supervision	Requires supervision	Line of sight at all times in unsecured settings; three documented elopement incidents in two school years
Daily living	Needs support with daily living	Physical assistance with toileting and hand-over-hand prompting for a two step hygiene routine, consistently across four years
Behavior	Responds well to redirection	Named antecedents, the de-escalation sequence that worked, and the frequency it was needed
Recommendations	Would benefit from support	Specific supports tied to each postsecondary goal, naming who provides them and how often

0

Exit evaluations required

Under 34 CFR 300.305(e)(2), no evaluation is required before eligibility terminates by diploma or by aging out.

60

Days for a VR decision

A vocational rehabilitation agency must make a final eligibility determination within 60 days of application.

1

Document IDEA guarantees

The summary of academic achievement and functional performance is the only new record the law requires on the way out.

TWO PAGES, ELEVEN YEARS

“

I handed her the exit summary the district gave us. It was two pages. It said he was cooperative, worked well with prompting, and enjoyed hands-on tasks. Eleven years of one-to-one staffing and the word elopement did not appear once.

THE FILE OUTLIVES THE TEAM THAT WROTE IT.

THE TAKEAWAY

Nothing in the regulation says the summary has to be short, generic, or written without you. Those are habits, not requirements, and habits can be interrupted by a written request.

TURN THE PAGE

How to request it, what parent input should contain, and what to do when the draft minimizes the support need.

Turn a form letter into evidence

SIX MONTHS OUT, IN WRITING

REQUEST

Ask early and ask in writing

☐ When the summary will be drafted

☐ Who on the team is writing it

☐ Whether you may review a draft first

☐ That parent input be considered

☐ That corrections be attached if needed

SUPPLY

Write the parent input

☐ A day in the life, waking to bed

☐ Support level attached to each task

☐ Frequencies, not adjectives

☐ What happens during brief gaps

☐ Incidents with dates, not impressions

COVER

Domains it must address

☐ Academic achievement with dates

☐ Functional performance across settings

☐ Communication method and AAC settings

☐ Adaptive and daily living skills

☐ Behavior and sensory supports that worked

USE

Where it goes next

☐ Vocational rehabilitation eligibility

☐ College or training disability services

☐ Adult day and employment provider intake

☐ Healthcare transition and specialist handoff

☐ Housing and disability benefit documentation

BRING ONE PAGE, NOT A BINDER

The exit document request

01

Requirement

34 CFR 300.305(e)(3). One summary, on exit.

02

Statute

20 USC 1414(c)(5)(B)(ii).

03

Trigger

Regular diploma, or exceeding the age limit.

04

Downstream

VR must review existing education records.

YOUR MOVE

When the draft describes someone more independent than your child

1

Assume good faith

Structure hides need. That is what structure is for.

2

Quote the file

Cite the incident log and the behavior plan.

3

Send corrections

In writing, specific, dated, factual.

4

Ask them attached

You want two documents, not an argument.

5

Keep the set

Summary, corrections, and the transmittal email.

You are not required to win. You are creating a record with two documents in it instead of one, and the second is signed by the person who knows him best.

SOURCES

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

U.S. Department of Education. 34 CFR 300.305(e). Subparagraph (e)(2) provides that no evaluation is required before eligibility terminates due to graduation with a regular diploma or exceeding the age of eligibility. Subparagraph (e)(3) requires a summary of the child academic achievement and functional performance, including recommendations on how to assist the child in meeting postsecondary goals. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1414(c)(5)(B)(ii). The statutory basis for the Summary of Performance requirement.

U.S. Department of Education. 34 CFR 361.42, Assessment for determining eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services. Requires the designated State unit to base eligibility on a review and assessment of existing data, including education records and information used by education officials, and to make a final determination within 60 days of application.

Michigan Alliance for Families. Free assistance for Michigan families preparing parent input or disputing an exit document.

Center for Parent Information and Resources. National guidance on transition documentation and the Summary of Performance.

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Jim Palasty is the founder of OASIS for Autism and a single father of an adult autistic daughter in Michigan.

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