

The California Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition fully supports the comments submitted by the National Down Syndrome Congress as they align with ESSA's purpose: "to provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. Local and state education agencies must be held accountable for all learners' progress.

To emphasize, there are specific NDSC suggestions that are vital for student success. Diplomas must be an option to all students, regardless of IEP goals, assessment, or student learning environment. The most appropriate way to ensure students with disabilities can earn regular diplomas is to reduce the use of segregated educational environments "in order to improve school environments and post school outcomes" (NDSC http://www.ndss.org/Global/Policy/Education/NDSC-NDSS_Education_Alert-7.16.16.pdf).

The regulations and the goals of the standards they guide are deeply connected. Please help ensure that students with disabilities will be able to access public education throughout our nation. Thank you for your consideration!

California Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition

