

Aug 22, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to share with you an important update regarding recent changes in Florida law that affect students with special needs, particularly those who were previously working toward a **Certificate of Completion**.

Beginning **July 1, 2025**, the State of Florida will **phase out the Certificate of Completion** as a graduation option. This means that students who do not earn a standard high school diploma will instead be required to participate in a **Transition-to-Work Program** that combines both **academic instruction** and **work-based learning experiences**.

At **ABELS**, we are fortunate to already have a strong Transition-to-Work Program in place. Our students engage in:

- Academic coursework focused on career readiness and independent living skills, and
- Community-based work experiences designed to build job skills and confidence.

Because of this, while there are some small adjustments we will need to make to align with the new state requirements, the overall impact on our students will be **minimal**.

It is also important to note that students on the **Access Points High School Diploma track** will **not be affected** by this change. Their current path toward earning a diploma remains the same.

Our commitment remains to support every student in reaching their fullest potential—academically, socially, and vocationally. We believe these updates will strengthen our program and continue to provide meaningful preparation for life after high school.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss how this change may affect your child specifically, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust in ABELS.

Graduation Track	Potential Change	Your child will receive
Standard Diploma	No Change	Standard Diploma
Access Points Diploma	No Change	Access Points Diploma
Certificate of Completion	Slight Change	Work Program Completion Diploma