

**CHATHAM CENTRAL SCHOOLS**  
**Committee on Special Education**  
**50 Woodbridge Avenue**  
**Chatham, NY 12037**  
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Dear Parents/Guardians of Chatham High School Students:

Recently, the New York State Board of Regents approved regulations that establish a new, exiting credential for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are now able to earn a New York State (NYS) Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential.

This credential will recognize each individual student's preparation and skills for post-school employment. This option will assist students who are not eligible for the New York State Alternative Assessment who may be unable to complete the requirements to obtain a regular high school diploma. The Commencement Certificate is not considered a high school diploma. It can be obtained instead of or in addition to a regular high school diploma.

Additionally, if your child with a disability is able to graduate high school with a regular diploma, they also have the opportunity to add the CDOS credential to their high school diploma. Please be aware that adding a CDOS credential is optional for those students who are on track to obtain a regular high school diploma.

Students have two pathways from which to choose to pursue the requirements for CDOS Commencement Credential. Information about these pathways is provided in the flyer which accompanies this letter. [View flyer...](#)

Please feel free to contact me or your child's School Counselor for more information regarding the CDOS Commencement Credential. More information from the NYS Education Department is available through the following link:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/CDOScredential-memo-613.htm>

Sincerely,

Brian Simon  
Director of Special Education

Cc: John Thorsen, High School Principal