

Students

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have earned a diploma by successfully completing the required course of study, satisfying district standards, and passing any required assessments. The Board of Trustees believes that these students deserve the privilege of a public celebration that recognizes the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

High school students who have passed the California High School Proficiency Examination or the General Education Development Test must also meet district graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Invocations, prayers or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. The school or district shall not sponsor other ceremonies or programs for graduates that include prayer.

Disciplinary Considerations

Prior to denial of the privilege(s), the student, and where practicable his/her parent/guardian, is made aware of the grounds for such denial and that the student is given an opportunity to respond. If privilege(s) are to be denied, the student and parent/guardian shall receive written notice of the denied privilege and the means whereby he/she may appeal this decision.

Honors and Awards

To honor superior academic achievement, graduation ceremonies shall include recognition of valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s). Valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s) shall be selected based on established criteria and procedures that use multiple measures of academic performance.

The Superintendent or designee shall identify other school-sponsored awards which may be given during graduation exercises. A separate awards program may be held to recognize graduating students receiving other school and nonschool awards.

Conduct at Graduation Ceremonies

Any student participating in a graduation ceremony shall comply with district policies and regulations pertaining to student conduct.

The Superintendent or designee may require graduating students to wear ceremonial attire, such as cap and gown, at the ceremony.

However, any graduating student who has completed basic training and is an active member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces may, at his/her option, wear his/her military dress uniform at the ceremony. (Education Code 35183.3)

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Elementary/Middle School Promotion Exercises

The Board desires that each elementary and middle school provide age-appropriate promotion exercises to recognize students who have completed the school's course of study. The Board does not consider cap and gowns appropriate attire at the middle school levels.

- (cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)
- (cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)
- (cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
- (cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)
- (cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)
- (cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)
- (cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)
- (cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)
- (cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)
- (cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)
- (cf. 5131 - Conduct)
- (cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)
- (cf. 5144 - Discipline)
- (cf. 6161.2 - Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35183.3 Graduation ceremonies; military dress uniforms
- 38119 Lease of personal property; caps and gowns
- 48904 Liability of parent or guardian; withholding of grades, diplomas, transcripts
- 51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students
- 51410-51412 Diplomas

COURT DECISIONS

- Cole v. Oroville Union High School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092
- Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe, (2000) 530 U.S. 290
- Lee v. Weisman, (1992) 505 U.S. 577
- Sands v. Morongo Unified School District, (1991) 53 Cal. 3d 863
- Lemon v. Kurtzman, (1971) 403 U.S. 602

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/>

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2/8/06
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