

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 Governing Board 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.

(cf. 6011 – Academic Standards)
(cf. 3260 – Fees and Charges)(cf. 6143 – Courses of Study)
(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)
(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Individuals with Disabilities)
(cf. 6162.52 – High School Exit Examination)

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

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

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.

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)
(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression: Publications Code)

Disciplinary Considerations

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny a student the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with school rules. Prior to denial of the privilege, the student, and where practicable his/her parent/guardian, shall be made aware of the grounds for such denial and shall be given an opportunity to respond. If a privilege is to be denied, the student and parent/guardian shall receive written notice of the denied privilege and the means whereby he/she may appeal the decision.

(cf. 5125.2 – Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)(cf. 5144 – Discipline)
(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)
(cf. 6161.2 - Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials)

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.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

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.

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

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.

(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

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.

This Board Policy, as revised by the Board of Education on November 18, 2014, will apply to students graduating in the year 2016, and each year thereafter.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

40014 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 51400-51403 Elementary school diploma

51410 Diplomas: no indication of intellectual classification

51411 Residence as condition for graduation; prohibition

51412 Standards of proficiency

Lee v. Weisman, (1992) 112 S.Ct. 2649

Sands v. Morongo Unified School District (1991) 53 Cal. 3d 863

Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971) 403 U.S. 602

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Fowler v. Board of Education of the Hickory Administrative School Unit (1978) 448 F. Supp. 497
Mifflin County School District v. Stewart (PA. Cmwth. 1986) 503 A.2d 1012, 30 Educ. L.R. 403
Jones v. Clear Creek Independent School District (1992, 5th Cir.) 977 F.2d 963
Harris v. Joint School District #241 (1994, 9th Cir.) No. 93-35839

Management Resources:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

0615.89 Granting credit for passing GED, SPB:88/89-11

Policy

adopted: January 20, 1998

Policy Reviewed: October 28, 2014

Policy Adopted: November 18, 2014

CULVER CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Culver City, California