

# MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS Board Policy

BP 5127

## STUDENTS

### High School Graduation Ceremonies **And Activities**

It is the intent of the Board of Education that the students who have satisfactorily completed the requirements of the District and the State of California for graduation from high school receive a diploma of graduation and be honored at a dignified ceremony.

→ Participation in high school graduation ceremonies shall be **held limited** to **recognize those** students who have **earned a diploma by successfully completing** achieved one of the conditions below:

- 1. Satisfactorily completed the required course of study and will receive a diploma. and met the California High School Exit Exam requirement. (BP 6146, 6146.1, 6146.4, 6147);

OR

Met provisions of BP 6146.2 applying for foreign exchange students;

OR

→ Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Governing Board ~~all curriculum and/or graduation requirements, but did not meet the California High School Exit Examination requirements~~ and will receive a “Certificate of Completion.”

→ OR

→ ~~Students, satisfying district standards, and passing any required assessments. The~~ with disabilities and active IEP’s must meet any of the following criteria:

- • ~~Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by 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 of the District in which the student attends school or the District with jurisdiction over the student as identified in his/her IEP.~~

**BP 5127 (a)**

**STUDENTS**

**High School Graduation Ceremonies **And Activities****

*(cf. 6011 – Academic Standards) (N/A)*

*(cf. 6143 – Courses of Study) study) (N/A)*

*(cf. 6146.1 – High School Graduation Requirements)*

*(cf. 6146.4 – Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)*

→ **OR**

**Satisfactorily met his/her goals and objectives during high school as identified in his/her IEP.**

→ **OR**

**Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.**

~~→ **At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, a student who will complete graduation requirements during the summer may be allowed to participate in graduation exercises without receiving a diploma. When the requirements have been satisfied, a diploma shall be sent to the student.**~~

~~High school students who have passed a high school equivalency test or California High School Proficiency Examination must also meet district graduation requirements in order to participate 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 prayer.~~

~~*(cf. 1330 – Use of School Facilities)*~~

~~*(cf. 5145.2 – Freedom of Speech/Expression)*~~

→ **Graduation ceremonies shall be non-partisan. Graduation speakers are limited to approved senior students, teachers, and/or site/District administrators.**

**BP 5127 (b)**

**STUDENTS**

**High School Graduation Ceremonies **And Activities****

**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.~~

→ ~~(cf. 5121—Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement) (N/A)~~

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 non-school awards.

*(cf. 5126 – Awards for Achievement)*

**Graduation Attire**

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

*(cf. 3260 – Fees and Charges)*

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

Students shall be permitted to wear tribal regalia or recognized objects of religious or cultural significance as an adornment to the customary ceremonial attire, as long as the adornment does not cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, the graduation ceremony.

- (1) “Adornment” means something attached to, or worn with, but not replacing, the cap and gown customarily worn at school graduation ceremonies; (2) “Cultural” means recognized practices and traditions of a certain group of people. (Education Code 35183.1)

**BP 5127 (c)****STUDENTS****High School Graduation Ceremonies **And Activities****

**Students who desire to wear such adornments shall seek permission from the Superintendent or designee at least 14 days before the graduation ceremony.**

**Disciplinary Considerations**

**Students are expected to comply with district and school policies, regulations, and rules throughout the school session, including during graduation and related events. Students shall not be denied the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and activities except as discipline in cases of serious misconduct. In no event shall a student be denied participation in graduation ceremonies unless the principal or designee has informed the student and the student's parents/guardians of the misconduct and has given them an opportunity to respond.**

*(cf. 5131 – Conduct) (N/A)*

*(cf. 5144 – Discipline) (N/A)*

**During the graduation ceremony, a student may be removed from the ceremony for conduct that is disruptive or that poses a risk to safety.**

**High school seniors shall be notified of this policy in advance, through the student handbook or other means, and shall be required to acknowledge receiving it.**

2. **Adhered to attendance and behavior expectations defined in the Student Conduct Code (BP 5132).**
3. **Provided the school a signed “Graduation Ceremony Contract” (with the exception of adult students enrolled in alternative education).**

**The Board of Education expects that such ceremonies be conducted in an atmosphere that is in keeping with the importance of the occasion. It is expected that the audience and graduates will remain seated during the ceremonies, that they will give proper attention to the speakers and other participants during the ceremonies and that they will refrain from disruptive behavior that will distract from the recognition that each graduate deserves as he/she is individually honored.**

**BP 5127 (d)**

**STUDENTS**

**High School Graduation Ceremonies **And Activities****

*Legal References:*

**EDUCATION CODE**

→ **7058 Political Activities of School Officers and Employees**

*35183.1 Graduation ceremonies; tribal regalia or recognized object of religious/cultural significance*

*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*

*51410-51413 Diplomas*

**COURT DECISIONS**

*Workman v. Greenwood Community School Corporation, (2010) Case No. 1:2010cv00293*

*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:*

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS**

*Pupil Fees, Deposits and Other Charges, Fiscal Management Advisory 17-01, July 28, 2017*

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS**

*Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, February 2003*

**WEB SITES**

*AASA The School Superintendents Association: <http://www.aasa.org>*

*Antidefamation League: <https://www.adl.org>*

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

*U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>*

**(7/01 3/10) 3/19**

---

**ADOPTED: February 6, 1989**

**REVISED: May 22, 2006**

**December 15, 2008**