

MODESTO CITY SCHOOLS

Administrative Regulation

AR 5127

→ INSTRUCTION
STUDENTS

High School Graduation Ceremonies And Activities ←

The following regulations apply to all high schools including alternative education:

1. Participation in Graduation Ceremonies

→ a. Students enrolled at a comprehensive high school may participate in ceremonies at the comprehensive high school if District course of study and ~~California High School Exit Examination~~ graduation requirements have been met at the comprehensive high school, summer school, or alternative education by the end of the senior year. This provision applies to mid-year graduates.

→ b. Students who complete the District's course of study and ~~California High School Exit Examination~~ requirements for graduation after their class has already graduated may participate in the alternative education graduation ceremony, but not in a ceremony at the comprehensive high school.

→ c. Students who complete the District's course of study and ~~California High School Exit Examination~~ requirements in a full-time independent study program through the Elliott Alternative Education Center may participate in the alternative education graduation ceremony. Students who complete the District's course of study and ~~California High School Exit Examination~~ requirements in a full-time independent study program through a comprehensive site may participate in that comprehensive site's graduation ceremony.

→ d. ~~A student who does not meet the California High School Exit Examination requirement may receive a Certificate of Completion and participate in graduation ceremonies provided the student meets all other graduation requirements.~~

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- d. ~~e.~~ Students who have passed the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) and/or the General Education Development Test (GED) may not participate in graduation ceremonies unless they have met all District graduation requirements.
- e. ~~f.~~ Students with disabilities ~~and~~ **with** active IEP's must meet any of the following criteria to participate in graduation ceremonies:
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- **Earn a high school diploma.**
 - Satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the Governing Board of the District in which the student attend school or the District with jurisdiction over the student as identified in his/her IEP.
 - Satisfactorily met his/her goals and objectives in high school as identified in his/her IEP.
 - Satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his/her IEP, and met the objectives of the statement of transition services.
 - Students who meet the criteria listed above and have not met the requirements for a high school diploma or Certificate of Completion will receive a Certificate of Academic Achievement.
- **f.** **During the student's senior year (4th year) of high school, IEP teams shall review the student's progress in relation to the above-mentioned criteria.**
- **g.** **A student receiving special education services may only participate in graduation ceremonies and related activities one time. This does not apply to students who receive a Certificate of Completion from a Modesto City Schools high school and then later receive a diploma through adult education. Students that fall under this criteria would be allowed to participate in both the high school and adult education graduation ceremonies.**

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2. Appropriate graduation ceremonies will be provided to honor graduating seniors at each District senior high school. As part of the ceremonies, each graduating senior will be recognized by having his/her name read and each will receive a District diploma of graduation, Certificate of Completion or Certificate of Academic Achievement (with the diploma or certificate provided after the ceremony) from a member of the Board of Education, a District administrator, or an individual approved by the Superintendent.
3. Graduation speakers are limited to approved senior students, teachers, and/or site/District administrators.
4. The principal will develop and implement a procedure to ensure that each reader of graduate names will pronounce student names correctly.
5. The graduation ceremonies will be conducted on the day, time, and place approved by the Board of Education.
6. The facilities and seating arrangement to be used for graduation ceremonies at each site will be decided by the principal. The use of off-campus facilities for graduation exercises must be approved by the Superintendent/designee.
7. The District and the individual high schools will work closely with the appropriate law enforcement agency to clarify roles, assignments, and expectations in enforcing the laws and District policy regarding graduation ceremonies.
8. In order to participate in the graduation ceremonies, each participant and his/her parent/guardian must sign a contract which must be on file at the school agreeing to abide by the specified code of dress and behavior for the ceremony. Adult students enrolled in alternative education are excluded from this provision (see Exhibit 5127).
9. A written statement will be provided to each member of the audience and/or the principal will make an oral announcement outlining appropriate audience behavior and expectations.

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10. Before being admitted to the ceremonies, each participant will be visually checked for appropriate dress and inappropriate items. A visual check may include a school official requesting the student to open his/her graduation gown. **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)**

→ **Additional allowable adornments to the cap and gown include:**

- **Military sashes that have been issued by the U. S. Armed Forces**
- **American Legion sashes**
- **JROTC sashes**
- **Academic programs’ sashes and cords**

→ **Not allowable as adornments to the cap and gown:**

- **Candy leis**
- **Decorating of caps or gowns**

→ **Any other additional adornments that are not stated above or defined by Education Code 35183.1 will not be allow and are to take place after the graduation ceremony.**

→ **Adornments to cap and gowns require permission from the Superintendent/designee at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the graduation ceremony. (BP 5127 and Education Codes §§ 35183.1, 35183.3)**

11. Representatives from each of the high schools will work together to share ideas and to develop procedures to work effectively with students and parents to best implement this policy.

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12. The school principal/designee shall remove or cause to be removed from the ceremonies and/or premises students or others who are in violation of current law or in violation of the Modesto City Schools policy relating to graduation exercises. Graduating seniors so removed may pick up their diplomas at a later date.
13. The school principal has the right and the authority to suspend the graduation ceremonies immediately prior to their beginning or during the ceremony if, in his/her judgment, allowing the ceremony to continue would be dangerous or would not be in the best interest of the graduates, the school, or the District.

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