

## GRADUATION CEREMONIES, PROMOTION 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 Education 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. 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)*

*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 the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) or the General Education Development Test (GED) must also meet District graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.*

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

Promotion ceremonies shall be held at the middle schools to recognize eighth grade students who meet certain academic and behavioral criteria. Certificates of promotion shall be awarded to these students.

Graduation or promotion ceremonies shall not be held at elementary schools. Diplomas or certificates of promotion or completion shall not be awarded to elementary students.

Particular care shall be taken to avoid activities which place undue pressure on students, parents or staff to participate or to purchase special clothing or to make other financial purchases.

~~High school students who have completed the required course of study but who have not passed the high school exit exam shall receive a certificate of educational achievement rather than a diploma and shall be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies and related graduation activities.~~

~~High school students who have passed the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) or the General Education Development Test (GED) must also meet District graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.~~

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

## **GRADUATION CEREMONIES, PROMOTION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)**

Invocations, *prayers, or* ~~and/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)*

### **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 establish procedures that ensure a fair determination of the students who have achieved the highest grade point average in the graduating class. If a tie exists, the principal may honor more than one valedictorian and/or salutatorian.~~

*(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 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. (Education Code 35183.1)*

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

### **~~Conduct at Graduation Ceremonies~~**

**ALVORD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Riverside, California**



## GRADUATION CEREMONIES, PROMOTION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

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

~~(cf. 5131—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)~~

### 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)~~

~~(cf. 5144 - Discipline)~~

*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.*

~~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. 6161.2—Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials)~~

### Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

35183.3 Graduation ceremonies; military dress uniforms

ALVORD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Riverside, California

**GRADUATION CEREMONIES, PROMOTION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES  
(continued)**

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  
51400-51403 Elementary school diploma  
51411 Residence as condition for graduation; prohibition  
51412 Standards of proficiency  
COURT DECISIONS

*Workman v Greenwood Community School Corporation, (2010) Case No. 1:2010cv00293*  
*Cole v. Oroville Union High School District (2000, 9<sup>th</sup> Cir.) 228 F. 3d 1092*  
*Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe, (2000) 530 U.S. 290*  
*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*

*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: <http://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>*

*Policy amended: May 26, 2020*

*Policy amended: July 8, 2010*

*Policy amended: March 5, 2009*

*Policy amended: June 26, 2008*

*Policy amended: April 6, 2006*

*Policy amended: August 11, 2005*

*Policy amended: November 4, 2004*

*Policy adopted: June 7, 2001*

**GRADUATION CEREMONIES, PROMOTION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES****Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony**

Students must meet the following criteria in order to participate in the promotion ceremony:

1. A "C" (2.0) grade point average
2. No more than one "F" except in the core subjects ("Fs" are not allowed in English, mathematics, science or social studies/history.)

Eligibility shall be determined using grades earned during the last semester of the school year. The following procedure shall be utilized to determine student eligibility:

1. At the end of first semester, the principal shall generate a list of students who at that time do not meet the above criteria and are at risk of not being eligible to participate in the promotion ceremony. Students and their parents shall be notified in writing that the student does not meet the criteria to participate in the promotion ceremony at that time. Furthermore, students and parents shall be notified of the opportunities that are available through the school for the student to improve. The school shall offer tutoring, homework help or other means of support to students who need assistance.
2. Five school days prior to the promotion ceremony, a final grade check will be made for each student on the list. The final determination will be based on the grades earned for the second semester. Students and parents shall be notified in writing of the student's status regarding eligibility to participate in the promotion ceremony.
3. In addition, by June 1 teachers shall report to the principal any student who is failing and who was not on the original list. Step 1 and 2 above shall be followed for those students.