

## Students

BP 5127(a)

### 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. 6143 - Courses of Study)*

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

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

~~*(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)*~~

High school students who have passed a high school equivalency test or 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)*

**~~OPTION 1:~~** 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.

**~~OPTION 2:~~** ~~The school or district shall not direct invocations, prayers, or benedictions at graduation ceremonies.~~

*(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.

*(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 CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

### ~~Conduct at~~ Graduation Attire Ceremonies

~~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.

*(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)*

~~However, any~~ 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~~ the student's option, wear ~~his/her~~ 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.

### 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.~~ 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 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. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)~~

~~(cf. 5131 - Conduct)~~

~~(cf. 5144 - Discipline)~~

~~(cf. 6161.2 - Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials)~~

## GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

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.

### Legal Reference:

#### EDUCATION CODE

*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-~~51412~~ 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>*

Policy

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