

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 a public celebration that recognizes the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

(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)

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

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

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)

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. School rules shall ensure that prior to denial of the privilege(s), the student, and where practicable his/her parent/guardian, is made aware of the grounds for such denial and that the student is given an opportunity to respond to the proposed denial. If privilege(s) are to be denied, the student and parent/guardian shall receive written notice of the denied privilege and the means whereby he/she may appeal this decision.

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(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). The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures that ensure a fair determination of the valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s).

1. Prior to the start of his /her final year of high school, a student meeting these requirements will be considered a valedictorian candidate:

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- a. Student possesses a cumulative un-weighted GPA of 4.0 in all courses posted to his/her high school transcript. [Note: Any course grade below an A- (including course challenge grades) posted to the high school transcript that is later repeated by a student and replaced with a higher grade would disqualify him/her from being named a valedictorian candidate.]
 - b. Student must have completed a minimum of 60 credits in “advanced” courses, such as Honors, AP, and/or college classes, grades 10-12. No fewer than 10 of these “advanced” credits must be earned during the student’s final year of high school [Note: A mid-term /mid-year graduate could take two “advanced” courses in the first semester/term of the final year of high school to meet this requirement.]
2. If no student with the minimum required number of “advanced” credits completed meets the cumulative 4.0 un-weighted GPA requirement, then it will be left to the discretion of the site principal to name a valedictorian(s) – or the principal has the option to not name a valedictorian for that school year.
 3. Students selected for salutatorian or valedictorian may not have Honor Code violations.
 4. If a tie exists, the principal may honor more than one valedictorian and/or salutatorian.
 - 5.

(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)

Foreign exchange students may receive honorary diplomas during the graduation ceremony. (Education Code 51225.5)

(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.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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*

51400-51403 *Elementary school diploma*

51410-51412 *Diplomas*

COURT DECISIONS

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) 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:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

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

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>