

**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 Board of Trustees 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)*

At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, a student who will complete graduation requirements during the summer may participate in graduation exercises without receiving his/her 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 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)*

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.

**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)*

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

### **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).

*(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)*

#### *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>