

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have successfully completed the required course of study, passed all proficiency standards, and thereby earned the right to receive a diploma. The Board of Education 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. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements/Standards of Proficiency)

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Individuals with Exceptional Needs)

Invocations and/or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. Ceremonies or programs involving prayer for graduates shall not be sponsored by the school or District.

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression: Publications Code)

Disciplinary Considerations

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with school rules. School rules shall ensure that the student and parent/guardian receive written notice of the privilege(s) to be denied, the grounds for such denial and the means whereby a student may appeal this decision.

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

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

(cf. 6161.2 - Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials)

Honors and Awards

To honor superior academic achievement, graduation ceremonies shall include recognition of valedictorians and salutatorians. 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)

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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)

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

Elementary and middle schools may provide age-appropriate promotion exercises to recognize students who have completed the school's course of study.

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 *Diplomas: no indication of intellectual classification*
- 51411 *Residence as condition for graduation; prohibition*
- 51412 *Standards of proficiency*

COURT DECISIONS

- Harris v. Joint School District #241 (1994, 9th Cir.) No. 93-35839
- Jones v. Clear Creek Independent School District (1992, 5th Cir.) 977 F.2d 963
- Lee v. Weisman, (1992) 112 S.Ct. 2649
- Sands v. Morongo Unified School District (1991) 53 Cal. 3d 863
- Mifflin County School District v. Stewart (PA. Cmwlth. 1986) 503 A.2d 1012, 30 Educ. L.R. 403
- Fowler v. Board of Education of the Hickory Administrative School Unit (1978) 448 F. Supp. 497
- Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971) 403 U.S. 602

Management Resources:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

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

Policy
Adopted: September 11, 2000

BREA OLINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Brea, California