

April 30th, 2019

Dear Families and Students:

Graduation ceremonies provide a wonderful opportunity for families to celebrate the achievements of their children with the whole school community.

In order to encourage widespread participation in this important milestone, it is the policy of the Department of Education (DOE) not to exclude students from graduation for behavioral reasons, except in very limited circumstances. Students may be excluded if they pose a threat of violence or disruption to the event or if they engaged in conduct that was particularly serious or dangerous. This policy applies to students who are on suspension at the time of the graduation or who otherwise engaged in misconduct prior to the graduation.

If the principal of your school believes that your child's behavior was serious enough to warrant exclusion from graduation, you must receive written notice and an opportunity to discuss the facts with the principal or another school representative before any measures are taken. Following this discussion, you must be provided with written notice of the decision at least four weeks prior to the event, where possible. If you believe your child's exclusion would violate DOE's policy, you may file a written appeal with your school's superintendent. You should file as soon as possible to enable a thorough review.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact your principal.

Sincerely,



Mark Rampersant  
Senior Executive Director  
Office of Safety & Youth Development