

5460.1 COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Board endorses graduation activities and ceremonies. The date of graduation shall annually be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.

Graduation shall not occur prior to completion of the required minimum one hundred eighty days of pupil instruction.

Guidelines for Graduation Year Activities

Pupil participation in special graduation year activities will require conduct of the highest caliber in all school situations.

Criteria for exclusion from these activities concern consistent behavioral patterns and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Consistent involvement in disciplinary action(s);
2. Suspension; and
3. Collaborative evaluation by the staff.

The final decision shall be made by the Superintendent.

Pupils and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be given advance notification of these criteria.

Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies

A pupil can only participate in the graduation ceremonies if they have passed all district and state graduation requirements or are a foreign exchange student who will not receive a diploma, or a pupil with disabilities as described below.

No pupil shall be barred from participation in graduation ceremonies for arbitrary or discriminatory reasons. A pupil who may be prevented from participation and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be so notified in advance.



Pupils with disabilities who meet the standards for graduation according to this section shall have the opportunity to participate in graduation exercises and related activities on a nondiscriminatory basis. Pupils with disabilities who complete their twelfth grade year, but who will continue to pursue completion of their secondary school programs of study pursuant to their IEP's and applicable law regarding the eligibility ages for public education shall also be allowed to participate in graduation exercises and related activities with their grade level cohorts on a nondiscriminatory basis. Diplomas for these pupils shall be issued upon their completion of their programs of study and their satisfaction of diploma requirements in their IEP's.

No child shall be excluded from participating in the ceremony because of an inability to pay the costs of participation.

Financial hardship shall be defined by eligibility standards for free and reduced price meals under the State school lunch program.

The Board reserves the right to deny participation in graduation activities when extreme circumstances warrant it. Such denial shall be treated in the same manner as a suspension and the pupil so affected shall be afforded the rights of review provided in policies of this Board.

The Board reserves the right to withhold a diploma and transcripts until all fines are paid.

Awarding of Diplomas

The President of the Board of Education and/or another designated member of the Board and the Superintendent of Schools shall award the diplomas.

Adopted: 7 December 2009
Revised: 24 September 2012

