

District Policy

5410.1 - COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Section: Students

Date Created: March 2013

Date Edited: March 2013

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 one hundred eighty days of student instruction.

Guidelines for Graduation

Criteria for exclusion from graduation activities involve consistent behavioral patterns that may include, but are not limited to:

- A. Consistent involvement in serious disciplinary action(s);
- B. Suspension or an egregious or criminal act.

Upon appeal, the final decision shall be made by the Superintendent.

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

Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies

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

When a student or his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) experience financial hardship and are unable to pay the costs of participation in graduation ceremonies, the Board shall assume the costs of the following items:

- A. Rental or purchase of cap and gown;

B. One yearbook; and

C. Other items, as may be determined by the Board.

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 student so affected shall be afforded the rights of review that are 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 **by either the Board President or Superintendent** shall award the diplomas. Board members, ~~and~~ former Board members, **and staff** shall be afforded the opportunity to award diplomas to their own children.

Adopted: 11 March 2013