

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

The New Hanover County Board of Education (Board) provides public recognition of the academic achievement of its high school seniors through a graduation ceremony. Students who have successfully completed the requirements for a high school diploma or certificate, and have not lost the privilege as a disciplinary measure, may participate in the graduation exercises.

Further, the Board expects that the graduation ceremony be a traditional formal occasion conducted with dignity. Caps with tassels and gowns shall be worn by the student participants. Collars, school issued cords or other apparel or regalia recognizing outstanding academic achievement shall be allowed. Names or logos of colleges, universities or other post-secondary programs to which students have been accepted are not to be displayed. Students participating in the ceremony are required to follow the appropriate dress code designated by the principal. Students who have met their graduation requirements and who are on active duty in the United States Armed Services or the United States Armed Services Reserves and who are qualified to wear their respective branch uniform are permitted to wear their dress uniform in lieu of the traditional graduation cap and gown. Students, faculty and the principal at each high school shall plan the graduation ceremonies subject to approval of the Superintendent or designee. The Chairperson of the Board or designee shall preside at high school graduation ceremonies.

Pre-kindergarten Centers, elementary and middle schools may hold promotion exercises, but formal graduation ceremonies are reserved for high schools.

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