

## 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 one hundred eighty days of pupil instruction.

Graduation from high school shall be based on the achievement in the four years represented by grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve. The Board generally supports the right of a pupil to participate in his/her high school's graduation ceremony when that pupil has met all of the academic requirements for graduation.

### 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:

- A. Consistent involvement in disciplinary action(s);
- B. Suspension; and
- C. Not meeting the requirements of the attendance policy due to summer school attendance for credit completion, remediation of failure in required courses, or in need of additional credits to meet credit requirements.

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

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.



The Board reserves the right to deny participation 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.

#### Costs Associated with Graduation

Graduating pupils may be asked to pay for the fees for their graduation ceremony. However, no graduating pupil shall be excluded from a graduation ceremony whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or other person having legal custody of the pupil is unable to pay the fees required for that graduation ceremony because of financial hardship. In determining financial hardship, the criteria shall be the same as the Statewide eligibility standards established by the State Board of Education for free and reduced price meals under the State school lunch program.

#### Awarding of Diplomas

The President of the Board of Education and/or another designated member of the Board shall award the diplomas. Board members and former Board members shall be afforded the opportunity to award diplomas to their own children.

Adopted: 24 January 2011

