

**Lewistown School District**

**INSTRUCTION**

2333

Participation in Commencement Exercises

Statement of Policy

A student's ability to participate in the commencement exercises of the graduating class at Fergus High School is an earned privilege. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all of the state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diploma at that time.

Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation exercises according to academic class standing or class officer status. Any student who, because of academic class standing, is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

The school administration shall not censor any presentation or require any content, but may advise the participants about appropriate language for the audience and occasion. Students selected to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, prayer, or any other pronouncement of their choosing.

Legal Reference:      Art. II, Sec. 5, Montana Constitution - Freedom of religion  
                                 Art. X, Sec. 7, Montana Constitution - Nondiscrimination in education  
  
                                 20-1-308, MCA            Religious instruction released time program  
                                 20-7-112, MCA            Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer  
                                 permitted

Policy History:

Adopted on: June 28, 2004

Revised on: