

Series 5000 – Students

1. Elementary and Secondary

B. Progress/Records

(5) Graduation Ceremony

There shall only be one district graduation ceremony upon completion of grade twelve in the high school. All other exercises upon student completion of elementary and middle school grades shall be referred to by another name.

The Board believes that completion of the requirements for a diploma from the Suffield Public Schools is an achievement that improves the community as well as the individual. Therefore, the Board wishes to recognize that achievement annually in a publicly held graduation ceremony.

Graduating students shall wear the traditional graduation regalia that consists of a cap, gown, and stole. Students must follow school guidelines in ordering these items. The following graduation adornments may be included for students receiving specialized recognition:

1. Valedictorian – Medal
2. Salutatorian – Medal
3. National Honor Society – Light Blue Stole
4. World Language Honor Society (Any) – Blue/Red Chord
5. Agriscience FFA Members – Gold/Blue Chord

The Board recognizes that Suffield High School students participate in a wide variety of student-based teams, clubs and organizations. They may wish to wear something that acknowledges their involvement and/or participation. To acknowledge their participation in such activities, the Board has authorized that student-based groups may request that a lapel pin be worn if it is uniform in size and shape to other lapel pins being worn during graduation exercises. The Director of Athletics and Student Activities, with support from the Club Advisor, will identify an appropriate pin to be worn. To qualify for a pin, a student must participate and remain a student in good standing to be eligible. The Club Advisor, with support from the Director of Athletics and Administration, will determine eligibility. Students will be expected to cover the cost of lapel pins. All Director of Athletics and Student Activities and Club Advisor decisions regarding lapel pin requests and eligibility will be considered final.

Students will not be permitted to participate in graduation exercises if they are wearing gown adornments not approved in this policy.

Only students who have successfully satisfied all requirements and obligations prescribed by Board policy and administrative regulations will be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony, except as provided below:

1. ~~A foreign exchange student may be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremonies at the discretion of the school administration, upon successful completion of the school year~~ Since Foreign Exchange students will not be able to complete the graduation requirements and credits set forth in BOE Policy 6146, these students may be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies at the discretion of the school administration, granted they successfully complete the school year;-
2. Exceptions may be approved by the Board in unusual circumstances, upon recommendation of the school administration.

The school administration must notify all students of the requirements and obligations to be met in order to participate in the graduation exercises. Individual students who are not or may not be eligible to participate in the graduation ceremonies, and their parent(s) or person having legal authority of the child shall be notified by mail in conjunction with each progress and grade report.

Participation in graduation exercises may be dependent upon satisfying financial obligations to the Suffield school district.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion; Student Due Process)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Retention)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6141.5 – Advanced College Placement)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures

Policy adopted: August 21, 2007

Policy revised: April 21, 2023

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Suffield, Connecticut