

1 **INSTRUCTION 2333**

2 Participation in Commencement Exercises

3 Statement of Policy

4 A student’s right to participate in a commencement exercise of the High School graduating class
5 is an honor. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the
6 graduating class who have completed all of the state and local requirements for graduation and
7 are in good standing before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their
8 requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diploma at the time
9 of completion. Students who violate the District’s discipline policy may be prohibited from
10 participating in commencement exercises.

11 Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

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

15 Students may participate in the graduation exercises of the High School they are enrolled in
16 during the last semester preceding graduation.

17 The school administrators will review presentations and specific content, and may advise participants
18 about appropriate language for the audience and occasion. Students selected to participate may choose
19 to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, or any other pronouncement of their
20 choosing.

21 The printed program for a commencement exercise will include the following paragraphs:

- 22 • Any presentation by participants of graduation exercises is the private expression of an individual
23 participant and does not necessarily reflect any official position of the District, its Board,
24 administration, or employees, nor does it necessarily indicate the views of any other graduates.
- 25 • The Board recognizes that at graduation time and throughout the course of the educational
26 process, there will be instances when religious values, religious practices, and religious persons
27 will have some interaction with the public schools and students. The Board, while not endorsing
28 any religion, recognizes the rights of individuals to have the freedom to express their individual
29 political, social, or religious views.

30 The school district will permit students to honor their American Indian heritage through the display of
31 culturally significant tribal regalia at commencement ceremonies. Any item that promotes drug use,
32 weapon use, threats of violence, sexual harassment, bullying, or other intimidation, or violates another
33 district policy, state, or federal law may not be worn during graduation.

34 Cross Reference:

35 Policy 2410 – High School Graduation Requirements

36 Policy 2410R – Publication of Graduation Requirements

1 Legal Reference:

2 Art. II, Sec. 5, Montana Constitution - Freedom of religion

3 Art. X, Sec. 1(2), Montana Constitution – Educational Goals and Duties

4 Art. X, Sec. 7, Montana Constitution - Nondiscrimination in education

5 § 20-5-201(3), MCA Duties and Sanctions

6 § 20-1-308, MCA Religious instruction released time program

7 § 20-7-112, MCA Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted

8 § 2-1-315, MCA Tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance-allowed at public events

9 Policy History:

10 Adopted on: November 27, 2017