

POLICY

Oakland Board of Education

Section: Students
5414. MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION PROCEDURES AND CEREMONIES
Date Created: January 2023
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The Board of Education will recognize with fitting ceremonies a student's completion of the program of studies offered by this district in middle school and the student's entrance into high school at the conclusion of grade eight. The date of the ceremony shall annually be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. Graduation will not occur prior to the completion of the required days of instruction.

Guidelines for Graduation Year Activities

Student participation in special graduation 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:

1. Consistent involvement in disciplinary action(s);
2. Suspension.

The final decision shall be made by the Superintendent.

Students and parents shall be given advance notification of these criteria.

Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies

No student shall be barred from participation in graduation ceremonies for arbitrary or discriminatory reasons. A student who may be prevented from participation and their parents shall be so notified prior to the close of the school year.

When a student or their parents experiences financial hardship and is unable to pay the costs of participation in graduation ceremonies, the Board shall assume the costs of the following items:

1. One yearbook;
2. Other, as may be determined by the Board.

Financial hardship shall be defined by eligibility standards for free and reduced price meals under the State school lunch program. The Superintendent may approve other petitions for waived fees or reduced fees associated with graduation ceremonies.

The Board reserves the right to deny participation in graduation activities when extreme circumstances warrant it. Such denial shall be treated in the same manner as a suspension and the student 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.

Awarding of Diplomas

A Board member shall present a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the amendments thereto, and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and the amendments thereto to each student upon graduation from elementary school.

The President of the Board 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.

The Board shall not prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in any district school, consistent with guidance issued by the United States Department of Education and applicable judicial decisions interpreting the religion clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Adopted: 17 January 2023