

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

The graduation or commencement ceremony is a time to celebrate the honors and achievements of the graduating class. The Superintendent, or designee will establish the date for graduation ceremonies aligned with NYSED's schedule for Regents examinations, and determine the place and program details, including attire. Academic and other awards and scholarships may be presented along with diplomas. Speakers may be selected from among the graduating class.

Participation in the graduation ceremony and related activities will be predicated on satisfactory completion of all graduation requirements, or as otherwise described in this policy. Exceptions may be made under extraordinary circumstances with the permission of the Superintendent of Schools. Students who have earned either a Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS) or Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (SACC) without meeting the requirements for a high school diploma by the time their ninth-grade cohort reaches graduation may, but are not required to, participate in that graduation ceremony and related activities.

However, students may be denied participation in the graduation ceremony and related activities as a consequence of violations of the Code of Conduct. The Building Principal may set other rules and conditions for participation in the graduation ceremony and related activities. All such rules will be provided to students and parents/guardians in advance. Students who have met the requirements for a diploma but are barred from participating in the graduation ceremony will be given their diplomas separately.

Students with disabilities who have attended high school for four years, but who have not met the requirements for a CDOS/SACC/high school diploma, may participate in the graduation ceremony and related activities with their ninth-grade cohort, and receive a certificate of attendance and/or course completion and any other awards they have earned. Such students who subsequently meet the requirements for a CDOS, SACC, or high school diploma may participate in the graduation ceremony of that graduating class. Students with disabilities who have not previously participated in a graduation ceremony may do so at the end of their final year in school.

Students with disabilities who participate in graduation ceremonies without receiving a diploma are entitled to continue their educational programs until the age set forth in accordance with state law, or until receipt of a Regents or local high school diploma, whichever comes first.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop regulations to implement this policy, to be adopted by the Board. The district will provide annual written notice to all students and their parents/guardians of the requirements of this policy and associated regulations.

Cross-ref: 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities
4321.9, Declassification of Students with Disabilities
4773, Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities

5300, Code of Conduct

Ref: Education Law §3204(4-b)

8 NYCRR §§100.2(o); 100.5; 100.6

A.R. v. Connecticut State Board of Education, 5 F.4th 155 (2021)

Formal Opinion of Counsel No. 242 (7/6/2023), NYSED

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