

## **GDB: Graduation Exercises**

The Board wishes to recognize the achievement of high school graduation by annually holding a graduation ceremony.

### **Participation Criteria**

Only students who have completed all requirements for graduation may participate in the ceremony. Participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege – not a right. Students who violate student conduct policies and regulations may be denied the privilege of participation in the ceremony at the principal and superintendent's discretion. The Superintendent is authorized to make exceptions to this policy for the following circumstances:

1. Home Schooled students who have satisfied the district's requirements for obtaining a district-issued diploma;
2. Foreign Exchange students, upon completion of the school year;
3. Special Education students who are unable to meet the district's requirements for obtaining a district-issued diploma but will receive a certificate of attendance.

Students that demonstrate misconduct at the ceremony may be removed from the graduation ceremony either by a school administrator or law enforcement.

The graduating senior class along with their class advisors and faculty will work together to plan the graduation ceremony.

### **Graduation Speakers**

Students and other graduation speakers are selected by the senior class on the basis of neutral criteria and retain control over the content of their speech. The school disclaims responsibility for any content that may include religious or anti-religious speech. The school district will not direct or encourage prayer at graduation or selection of speakers who will include such expressions in their speech. The students will maintain primary control over their speeches. Primary control is defined as authority by the student to include any content in a speech as long as it is not profane,

sexually explicit, defamatory, disruptive, and/or does not infringe on the rights of others. The administration reserves the right to review and approve all speeches prior to the ceremony.

To the extent that the district makes its facilities and related services available to the private sector, the district will provide similar access on similar terms to private groups for a baccalaureate ceremony. The district and the school will not mandate student attendance or participation in the organization of the ceremony. School employees are free to attend but will not be required to attend the baccalaureate ceremony.

All students participating in graduation ceremonies will wear cap and gowns as selected by the graduating class. The graduating class will enter the ceremony as follows:

1. Valedictorian
2. Salutatorian
3. Honor Society Graduates (alphabetical order)
4. Honor Graduates (class ranking order)
5. All remaining graduates will follow in alphabetical order.

Participation in the graduation ceremony is strongly encouraged but is not mandatory. Students are required to attend rehearsal if they intend to participate in the graduation ceremony.