

Graduation Exercises

The Board believes that completion of the requirements for a diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance from public schools is an achievement that improves the community as well as the individual. The Board wishes to recognize this achievement in a publicly celebrated graduation exercise.

Accordingly, appropriate graduation programs may be planned by the school on the date selected by the Board.

The school's valedictorian(s), salutatorian(s) or others, at the discretion of the principal or designee, may be permitted to speak as part of the district's planned graduation program. All speeches will be reviewed and approved in advance by the building principal or designee.

All students in good standing¹ who have successfully completed the requirements for a high school diploma or qualify to receive or receive a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance, including students participating in a district-sponsored alternative education program and students with disabilities receiving a document certifying successful completion of program requirements, shall have the option to participate in graduation exercises.

A student shall be allowed to wear a dress uniform issued to the student by a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces if the student:

1. Qualifies to receive a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance; and
2. Has completed basic training for, and is an active member of, a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Graduating students will be allowed to wear ²“Native American items of cultural significance”³ or other items of cultural significance⁴.

END OF POLICY

¹ A student may be denied participation in graduation exercises for conduct that violates board policy, administrative regulation and/or code of conduct provisions.

² “Native American items of cultural” means items or objects that are traditionally associated with a Native American or that have religious or cultural significance to a Native American.

³ ORS 332.112 requires that districts allow students to wear “Native American items of cultural significance” to graduation and other school events. Districts can choose to allow students to wear items of significance to other cultures.

⁴ The district may prohibit an item or object that: a) is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with the graduation ceremony, or b) replaces a cap or gown customarily worn at a graduation ceremony.

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 329.451](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 332.112](#)
[ORS 339.505](#)
[ORS 343.295](#)

[ORS 659.850](#)
[OAR 581-021-0050](#)
[OAR 581-021-0055](#)
[OAR 581-021-0060](#)
[OAR 581-022-2000](#)

[OAR 581-022-2010](#)
[OAR 581-022-2015](#)
[OAR 581-022-2020](#)
[OAR 581-022-2505](#)

31 OR. ATTY. GEN. OP. 428 (1964)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683 (2018); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2020).

Kay v. David Douglas Sch. Dist. No. 40, 1987; cert. den., 484 U.S. 1032 (1988).

Doe v. Madison Sch. Dist. No. 321, 177 F.3d 789 (9th Cir. 1999).

Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992).

Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).