



Cache County School District

Policy Series 4000: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

Policy No. 4900 P3

Graduation Ceremonies

Purpose

This procedure establishes expectations for participation in commencement exercises and provides guidance for the planning and administration of graduation ceremonies in Cache County School District high schools.

Participation in Graduation Ceremonies

Participation in graduation ceremonies is a privilege and not a property right.

Students may participate in commencement exercises when:

- 1) graduation requirements have been completed or verified;
- 2) financial and school obligations have been satisfied;
- 3) student conduct complies with school expectations; and
- 4) ceremony requirements established by the school have been met.

Participation in commencement exercises is voluntary.

Reading of Student Names

For commencement exercises, a student may select the name to be read during the graduation ceremony from one of the following:

- 1) the student's name as listed in the Student Information System (PowerSchool);
- 2) the student's preferred name as listed in the Student Information System (PowerSchool); or
- 3) the student's legal name as it appears on the student's diploma, if different from the name listed in PowerSchool.

The name selected for announcement during commencement exercises shall not modify or replace the student's education record, legal name, or diploma record.

Schools may establish reasonable procedures and deadlines for students to verify pronunciation and name-reading preferences prior to commencement exercises.

Graduation Attire

Schools may establish reasonable requirements regarding graduation attire that promote safety, order, and the dignity of the ceremony.

If a school utilizes multiple colors of graduation gowns, students shall be permitted to select the gown color they prefer, subject to availability and school-established ordering deadlines.

A student's choice of graduation attire shall not be assigned or restricted based upon gender.

Cultural and Religious Adornments

Students may wear recognized items of cultural or religious significance as adornments during graduation ceremonies, as provided by Utah Code § 53G-4-414.

Nothing in this procedure shall limit the rights of a qualifying student to wear tribal regalia during a graduation ceremony as provided by Utah Code § 53G-4-412.

Schools may restrict an adornment only as permitted by law.

Graduation Committees

Each high school shall establish a graduation committee responsible for planning and coordinating commencement exercises.

The graduation committee may include administrators, counselors, faculty members, student representatives, and other individuals designated by the principal.

Consistent with school traditions and practices, the graduation committee shall determine:

- 1) the order of exercises;
- 2) student recognitions and awards presented during the ceremony;
- 3) student speakers and performers;
- 4) faculty and guest participation;
- 5) ceremony logistics; and
- 6) other matters necessary for the successful conduct of the graduation ceremony.

Nothing in this procedure requires uniform graduation ceremony practices among district high schools.

Administration

The principal is responsible for administering graduation ceremonies in accordance with this procedure and applicable law.

Utah Code § 53E-9-205

Utah Code § 53G-4-412

Utah Code § 53G-4-414

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