



Book	Board Policies
Section	5000: Students
Title	Graduation Ceremonies and Activities
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BP 5127

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have completed the required course of study, satisfying District standards. Diplomas will be earned by students who have completed the required course of study, satisfying District standards, and passing any required assessments. The Board of Education believes that these students deserve a public celebration that recognizes the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives. Students with IEPs and/or 504s, who have not passed required assessments, but have completed the required course of study, will receive a Certificate of Completion.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.4 - Differential Graduation and Competency Standards for Students with Disabilities)

High school students who have passed the California High School Proficiency Examination or the General Education Development Test must also meet District graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.

(cf. 6146.2 - Certificate of Proficiency/High School Equivalency)

Invocations, prayers or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. The school or District shall not sponsor other ceremonies or programs for graduates that include prayer.

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Honors and Awards

To honor superior academic achievement, graduation ceremonies shall include recognition of valedictorian(s) and/or salutatorian(s). The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures that ensure a fair determination of the valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s).

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

The Superintendent or designee shall identify other school-sponsored awards that may be given during graduation exercises. A separate awards program may be held to recognize graduating students receiving other school and non-school awards.

(cf. 5126 - Awards for Achievement)

Foreign exchange students may receive honorary diplomas during the graduation ceremony. (Education Code 51225.5)

(cf. 6145.6 - International Exchange)

Conduct at Graduation Ceremonies

Any student participating in a graduation ceremony shall comply with District policies and regulations pertaining to student conduct.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

The Superintendent or designee may require graduating students to wear ceremonial attire, such as cap and gown, at the ceremony.

However, any graduating student who has completed basic training and is an active member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces may, at his/her option, wear his/her military dress uniform at the ceremony. (Education Code 35183.3)

Disciplinary Considerations

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny a student the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with school rules. School rules shall ensure that prior to denial of the privilege(s), the student, and where practicable his/her parent/guardian, is made aware of the grounds for such denial and that the student is given an opportunity to respond to the proposed denial. If privilege(s) are to be denied, the student and parent/guardian shall receive written notice of the denied privilege and the means whereby he/she may appeal this decision.

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Elementary/Middle/High School End of the Year Activities

Activities for Fifth Grade Students

1. The activity should take place on the school grounds or at a nearby Torrance park. Amusement parks, theme parks, pool, or beach activities are inappropriate.
2. Field days, picnics, parties, or special assemblies are appropriate activities. These should be planned for no more than one half the instructional day. Activities should conform to all school safety requirements (i.e. dunk tanks, bounce machines, etc. are not allowed).
3. Costs for these activities should be funded through PTA, donations, or other appropriate school budgets. Student fundraising should be kept to a minimum.
4. No Torrance Unified School District transportation will be used in conjunction with this activity.

Activities for Eighth Grade Students

1. One barbecue/picnic activity, on one afternoon, of the last week of school, should take place at the school, or a Torrance park near or adjacent to the school. Amusement parks, theme parks, pool, or beach activities are inappropriate. Activities should conform to all school safety requirements (i.e., dunk tanks, bounce machines, etc. are not allowed).
2. One dance/party after the promotion ceremony should be held at the school, at a Torrance city facility, or at one of the Torrance high schools.
3. Costs for these activities should be funded through PTA, donations, or other appropriate school budgets. Student fundraising should be kept to a minimum.
4. No District transportation will be used in conjunction with these two activities.

Activities for High School Students

1. Activities should conform to all school safety regulations (i.e. dunk tanks, bounce machines, etc. are not allowed).

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE*35183.3 Graduation ceremonies; military dress uniforms**38119 Lease of personal property; caps and gowns**48904 Liability of parent or guardian; withholding of grades, diplomas, transcripts**51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students**51410-51412 Diplomas*COURT DECISIONS*Cole v. Oroville Union High School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092**Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe, (2000) 530 U.S. 290**Lee v. Weisman, (1992) 112 S.Ct. 2649**Sands v. Morongo Unified School District, (1991) 53 Cal. 3d 863**Lemon v. Kurtzman, (1971) 403 U.S. 602**Management Resources:*WEB SITESCDE: California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/>

Policy

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TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Torrance, California