

### **GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Board believes that it is the goal for all students to meet the graduation requirements; thereby earning the privilege of participating fully in graduation activities on their way to post-secondary education. The Board also believes it is appropriate to honor students' successful promotions through the elementary and middle school stages of education on the way toward high school diploma through appropriate recognition activities.

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have earned a diploma by successfully completing the required course of study, satisfying district standards, and passing any required assessments. The Governing Board 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 must have completed all graduation requirements prior to the graduation ceremony in order to participate in graduation exercises. Students who complete all of their graduation requirements during summer, immediately following their senior year, may receive their diploma from their last high school of attendance within the district, but will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies prior to completion of the requirements. Students who complete all of their graduation requirements beyond the summer, immediately following their senior year, will receive their diploma from one of the district alternative programs (Canyon Oaks, Mountain Park, and Adult Education).

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.

The school or district shall not direct invocations, prayers or benedictions at graduation ceremonies.

#### **Conduct at Graduation Ceremonies**

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

### 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.

### Honors and Awards

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

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

Foreign exchange students may receive honorary diplomas during the graduation ceremony.