

STUDENTS

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND 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 ceremony that recognizes the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

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,

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. A senior contract will be completed by each graduate at the start of their senior year of high school. 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 to the Assistant Superintendent/Instruction and Support Services. This decision shall be final.

Honors and Awards

To honor superior academic achievement, graduation ceremonies shall include recognition of honor graduates, student that have maintained a 4.0 grade point average during the first seven semesters of high school.

The Superintendent or designee shall 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 nonschool awards.

Foreign exchange students may receive honorary diplomas during the graduation ceremony. (Education Code 5125.5)

Middle School Promotion Exercises

The Board desires that each middle school provide age-appropriate promotion exercises to recognize students who have completed the school's course of study.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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*

51400-51403 *Elementary school diplomas*

51410-51412 *Diplomas*

COURT DECISIONS

Cole v. Oroville Union High School District. (2000, 9th Cir.) 228F.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

Policy Adopted: 10/14/08

MOORPARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Moorpark, California