

### 5460 COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education will recognize with fitting ceremonies a student's completion of the program of studies offered by this district in the middle school. Such recognition should never mark the termination of a student's education but rather observes the important transition from the middle school to the senior high school.

Such successful completion of the program of studies in the middle school grades six through eight requires achievement of the instructional objectives set for each course of study, demonstration of mastery of the proficiencies established for each course and a satisfactory attendance record. The parent of a student who may be prevented from graduation shall be so notified in advance and no later than six weeks prior to the close of the school year. Every effort shall be made to remediate a student's deficiencies before graduation is denied.

A student in the middle school may not be deemed to have successfully mastered the objectives assigned to a course of study when he/she has been absent (unexcused) more than fifteen days in the school year.

The requirements for graduation from the middle school of a student classified as requiring a program of special education shall be set forth in his/her individualized education program. Completion of those special requirements shall qualify the student for graduation and entry to secondary school.

The Board endorses graduation activities and ceremonies. The date of graduation shall annually be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.

Graduation shall not occur prior to completion of the required one hundred eighty days of student instruction.

#### Guidelines for Graduation Year Activities

Student participation in special graduation year activities will require conduct of the highest caliber in all school situations.

Criteria for exclusion from these activities concern consistent behavioral patterns and shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Consistent involvement in disciplinary action(s);
- B. Suspension;



The final decision shall be made by the Superintendent.

Students and parents shall be given advance notification of these criteria.

### Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies

No student shall be barred from participation in graduation ceremonies for arbitrary or discriminatory reasons.

A student who may be prevented from participation and his/her parents shall be so notified in advance and no later than fourteen days prior to the close of the school year.

When a student or his/her parents experiences financial hardship and is unable to pay the costs of participation in graduation ceremonies, the Board shall assume the costs of the following items:

- A. Rental or purchase of cap and gown;
- B. One year book;
- C. Other, as may be determined by the Board.

Financial hardship shall be defined by eligibility standards for free and reduced price meals under the State school lunch program.

The Board reserves the right to deny participation in graduation activities when extreme circumstances warrant it. Such denial shall be treated in the same manner as a suspension and the student so affected shall be afforded the rights of review provided in policies of this Board.

The Board reserves the right to withhold a diploma and transcripts until all fines are paid.

Adopted: 21 July 2016

