

CVUSD

Board Policy

BP 5127

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 the privilege of a public celebration that recognizes the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

(cf. 6011 - Academic Standards)

(cf. 6143 - Courses of Study)

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6162.52 - High School Exit Examination)

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

At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, a student who will complete graduation requirements during the summer may participate in graduation exercises without receiving his/her diploma. When the requirements have been satisfied, a diploma shall be sent to the student.

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)

Disciplinary Considerations

Note: The withholding of a diploma is governed by Education Code 48904 and is not the same as denying participation in graduation ceremonies; see AR 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts and BP 6161.2 - Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials. Even though the graduation ceremony is not an essential component to the granting of a diploma, it is an important symbolic event. Therefore, it is recommended that districts provide some due process before denying a student the privilege of participating in the ceremony.

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)
(cf. 6161.2 - Damaged or Lost Instructional Materials)

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).

(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 nonschool 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)

Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Superintendent's Highest Honors Award

- A. Any member of the graduating class who has met the requirements for graduation is eligible for consideration.
- B. A candidate must have acceptable citizenship in behavior.
- C. All courses that the student has taken for credit toward graduation except physical education shall be used in computation of class standing. This is called the Scholastic Grade Point Average
- D. Grade point average shall be based upon the following: "A" - 4 points, "B" - 3 points, "C" - 2 points, "D" - 1 point, "F" - 0 points. For those students who take advanced placement and honors courses in academic subjects, those grades will be weighted to reflect the more rigorous nature of the course. ~~The Scholastic~~ **Weighted** Grade point average shall be based on the following: as "A" - 5 points, "B" - 4 points, "C" - 3 points, "D" - 1 point, "F" - 0 points.
- E. Grade point average is computed by dividing the total number of points received from grades by the total number of courses taken.
- F. All Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses will earn an additional .02 points for an "A" and .01 points for a "B". These additional points are added to the Scholastic Grade Point Average to compute an Indexed Grade Point Average to be used in determining Valedictorian and Salutatorian.
- G. Seniors will be eligible for the Superintendent's Highest Honors Award. All seniors with an indexed grade point average of 4.0 or higher will receive this award subject to subsection B of this policy. Computations for the Superintendent's Highest Honors Award shall be based on the student's grade as of the completion of the next to last semester prior to the date of the graduation of his/her class.
- H. The indexed class rank will be used to designate Valedictorian(s) and Salutatorian(s). Computations for Valedictorian and Salutatorian shall be based upon a student's projected grades as of the fifteenth of May prior to the date of the graduation of his/her class. Students achieving an Indexed Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.650 or above shall be designated as the Valedictorian. If no student achieves an Indexed GPA of 4.650 or above, the student with the highest Indexed GPA is designated Valedictorian. In those instances where two (2) or more students have an Indexed GPA of 4.650 or higher, they shall be designated Co-Valedictorians; no Salutatorian shall be designated for that class. If only one student is designated as Valedictorian, the student with the second highest Indexed GPA shall be the Salutatorian. In those instances where there is only one (1) student to be designated Valedictorian but there are two (2) or more students with an identical grade point average and that grade point average is the second highest in their class, they shall be designated as the Co-Salutatorians for that class.

Reference CVUSD BP 344.7.1 (2/75, 6/81, 6/98, 4/02, 6/06)

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 diploma

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:

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

0615.89 Granting credit for passing GED, SPB:88/89-11

WEB SITES

CDE: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

CSBA: (6/96 7/01) 3/10

CVUSD (8/08 1/10) 9/10