

**Students**

**Graduation Ceremonies and Activities**

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have successfully completed the required course of study, passed all proficiency standards, and thereby earned the right to receive a diploma or certificate. 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.

The Board of Education recognizes and authorizes the issue of four (4) types of diplomas and/or certificates. They are:

1. The standard high school diploma for students who have fulfilled the requirements and passed the High School Exit Exam (beginning in the 2005-06 school year).
2. The Adult Education diploma for students meeting all requirements and passing the High School Exit Exam.
3. The Certificate of Educational Achievement for students who have fulfilled all the requirements for graduation, but have not passed the High School Exit Exam (beginning in the 2005-06 school year) or individuals with exceptional needs who have completed 230 credits and the course of study as stipulated in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).
4. The Certificate of Completion for individuals with exceptional needs who have met all the requirements of their Individual Education Program (IEP) for graduation and have taken the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) test.

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 ground 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.

Any student participating in a graduation ceremony shall comply with district policies and regulations pertaining to student conduct and the returning, replacing, or reimbursement of school property and/or instructional materials provided for use by students.

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.

Invocations and/or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. Ceremonies or programs involving prayer for graduates may not be sponsored by the school or district.

Students will be recognized for their achievement at high school graduation as:

- A. Valedictorian - Highest GPA
- B. Highest Honors (group)
- C. High Honors (group)
- D. Honors (group)

A student must be enrolled in a Lodi Unified School during their junior (11<sup>th</sup> grade) academic year in order to be eligible for Valedictorian status.

In addition to academic achievement, the principal shall consider discipline records in the final selection of the Valedictorian.

Legal References: 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, 9<sup>th</sup> 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

Mifflin County School District v. Stewart ,(PA. Cmwltth. 1986)

503 A.2d 1012 30 Educ. L.R. 403

Fowler v. Board of Education of the Hickory Administrative

School Unit, (1978) 448 F. Supp. 497

Management Resources

CDE PROGRAM ADVISORIES

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

WEB SITES

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy

adopted: 06/02/98

revised: 05/03/05

revised: 01/17/06

revised: 01/15/08

revised: 05/19/09

revised: 09/07/10

revised: 05/17/11

revised: 03/04/14