

Participation in Commencement Exercises

Statement of Policy

A student's right to participate in the commencement exercises of the School District's graduating class is a privilege. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all of the state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diploma at that time.

Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation exercises according to the academic class standing or class officer status. Any student who, because of academic class standing, is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

The school administration may advise the participants about appropriate language and content for the audience and occasion. Students selected to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, prayer, or any other pronouncement of their choosing.

The principal shall review and approve the student's address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, or any other pronouncement of their choosing prior to its presentation to the audience attending the graduation ceremony to ensure that there is no conflict with the Establishment Clause found in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, The Idaho Constitution or the laws of the state of Idaho.

Students are expected to dress and act in a fashion that is commensurate with the dignity of the ceremony. The privilege of participation in graduating exercises may be revoked by the principal of the school in the instances of any student unwilling to comply with the regulations governing graduation exercises.

Legal Reference:

United States Constitution-1st Amendment
Art. 9, Sec. 6, Idaho Constitution – Religious Test and Teaching in School
Prohibited
I.C. § 33-1603 Sectarian Instruction Forbidden
I.C. § 33-512 Governance of Schools
I.C. § 67-5909 Acts Prohibited

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 10, 2009
Revised on: November 12, 2012