

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 shall exercise plenary control over all aspects of any graduation ceremony held within the District. The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation exercises according to 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.

Students selected to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, 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 choice 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.

Legal Reference:

- United States Constitution-1<sup>st</sup> 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
- Revised on: May 9, 2022