

Santa Barbara School Districts

Board Policy

BP 5127

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. The Governing Board believes that these students deserve a public celebration that recognizes on the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

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.

Disciplinary Considerations

While recognizing the importance of graduation ceremonies, the Board also desires to maintain high standards of student conduct and behavior. Graduation ceremonies are offered for students in good standing. The principal may deny the privilege of participating in these ceremonies in accordance with school rules that provide for due process.

Elementary/Middle School Promotion Exercises

The Board desires that each elementary and middle school provides age-appropriate promotion exercises to recognize students whom have completed the school's course of study.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

40014	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 Diplomas: no indication of intellectual classification
51411 Residence as condition for graduation; prohibition
51412 Standards of proficiency
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. Cmwlth. 1986) 503 A.2d 1012 30 Educ.
L.R. 403
Fowler v. Board of Education of the Hickory Administrative School Unit (1978) 448 F.

Policy: SANTA BARBARA ELEMENTARY/HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Adopted: March 10, 1999 Santa Barbara, California