

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The board of education endorses the annual elementary school graduation program and directs the chief school administrator to ascertain that no student be barred from participation for arbitrary or discriminatory reasons, or by financial constraints.

The board reserves the right to deny participation in graduation activities when circumstances warrant it. Such denial shall be treated in the same manner as a suspension and the pupil so affected shall be afforded the rights of review provided in policies of this board.

The board reserves the right to withhold a diploma until all fines are paid.

Awarding of Diplomas

A copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the amendments thereto, and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and the amendments thereto shall be presented to each pupil upon graduation from elementary school.

The president of the board of education and/or another designated member of the board shall award the diplomas. Board members and former board members shall be afforded the opportunity to award diplomas to their own children.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:7C-5.1 Boards of education prohibited from excluding students from graduation ceremony or from obtaining yearbook for inability to pay fees
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-18 Books containing organic laws at graduation
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1 et seq. Implementation of Graduation Requirements

Ballato v. Long Branch Board of Education, 1990 S.L.D. (August 20)

Lee v. Weisman, 112 S.Ct. 2649 (1992)

American Civil Liberties Union v. Blackhorse Pike Regional Board of Education, 84 F.3d 1471 (3d Cir. 1996)

Cross References: *5113 Absences and excuses
*5114 Suspension and expulsion
*5126 Awards for achievement
*5131 Conduct/discipline
*6111 School calendar
*6141.2 Recognition of religious beliefs and customs
*6146 Graduation requirements

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Commencement Activities, Graduation Ceremonies

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Revised: