

## Mendocino Unified School District

### 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 the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, a student who will complete graduation requirements during the summer may participate in graduation exercises without receiving his/her diploma. When the required credits have been earned, a diploma shall be sent to the student.

High School students who have passed the California High School Proficiency Examination or the General Education Development Test must also meet District graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.

#### 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

Harris v. Joint School District #241 (November 18, 1994) No. 93-35839, U.S. Court of appeals, 9th Circuit

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. 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. Supp. 497

Jones v Clear Creek Independent School District (1992, 5th Cir.) 977 F.2d 963

### **Board Policy 5127**

Adopted 2/8/96 ; Revised 10/15/96

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

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with school rules. School rules shall ensure that the student and parent/guardian receive written notice of the privilege(s) to be denied, the grounds for such denial, and the means whereby a student may appeal this decision.

Management Resources

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