COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The graduation or commencement ceremony is a time to celebrate the honors and achievements of the graduating class. The Board of Education will establish the date for graduation ceremonies, while the administration will determine the place and program details, including attire. Academic and other awards and scholarships may be presented along with diplomas. Speakers may be selected from among the graduating class.

Two members of the senior class will participate as speakers in the graduation ceremony. The president of the senior class will welcome the guests at the graduation on behalf of the graduating class. One student will be chosen from the graduating class each year to be the Graduation Speaker.

All qualified candidates are to be placed by the office on a ballot by the Secretary to the Superintendent. The K-12 faculty members, special faculty members, all Building Administrators, Guidance Secretary, Superintendent's Secretary, and Study Hall Monitor will meet and discuss the qualifications of each senior on the ballot. After such discussion, these faculty and staff members and all building administrators will vote by secret ballot and select the best qualified senior by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote members present and casting a vote.

To be eligible to be on the ballot, a senior must have at least an 85 average for all of his/her subjects. The average for each senior will be taken at the end of the third quarter of the senior year.

All marks for high school credit subjects (adjusted for credits) are added together to find one total, which is then divided by the number of possible credits and carried out two decimal places.

When the faculty votes, they should consider that the Graduation Speaker is to represent those qualities most admired by the school and that he/she does not represent academic achievement only. If the president of the senior class is selected as the Graduation Speaker, the vice-president of the class will welcome the guests. If no senior has an average of 85 or better, the faculty will determine if there will be a speaker.

Class Day

Any student who deviates from the accepted procedures of Class Day, will be denied participation in the graduation ceremony, and his/her diploma will be mailed to them, subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board President.

Participation in the graduation ceremony and related activities will be predicated on satisfactory completion of all graduation requirements, or as

otherwise described in this policy. Exceptions may be made under extraordinary circumstances with the permission of the Superintendent of Schools. A student who has earned either a Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS) or Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (SACC) by the time his//her ninth-grade cohort reaches graduation may, but is not required to, participate in that graduation ceremony and related activities.

If a student who participates in graduation ceremony by earning a CDOS or SACC only subsequently meets the requirements for either a Regents or local high school diploma, he/she may participate in the graduation ceremony of that graduating class as well.

A student with a disability who participates in graduation ceremonies by earning only a CDOS or SACC is entitled to continue his/her educational program until the end of school year in which the student turns 21 years old, or until he/she earns a Regents or local high school diploma.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations to implement this policy, to be adopted by the Board. The district shall provide annual written notice to all students and their parents/guardians of the requirements of this policy and associated regulations.

Cross-ref: 4321, Programs for Students with Disabilities Under the IDEA and
            New York's Education Law Article 89
            4321.9, Declassification of Students with Disabilities
            4773, Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities

Ref: Education Law §3204(4-b)
            8 NYCRR §§100.5; 100.6

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