

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.

Eligibility - To be eligible for recognition as Valedictorian, a student must:

- Graduate with a Regents Diploma or Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation.
- Be enrolled as a full-time student in the District during the senior year.
- Have attended the District for a minimum of six consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent due to extraordinary circumstances.

Academic Ranking

Class rank shall be determined using the District's approved **unweighted** grade point average (GPA) calculation.

The Valedictorian shall be the graduating senior with the highest cumulative unweighted GPA.

The GPA used for this determination shall include all high school credit-bearing courses completed through the conclusion of the third marking period (or equivalent grading period) of the senior year. Grades earned after the established cutoff date shall not be included in determining the designation of Valedictorian.

Behavior

As in previous years, the Graduation Speaker is expected to be a positive role model who has demonstrated good character and has not engaged in significant behavioral misconduct during their time at Chazy Central Rural School. Each year, the administration will review the Valedictorian's eligibility to ensure these expectations have been met.

If the Valedictorian is determined not to be an appropriate candidate or declines the opportunity to speak, the honor will be offered to the student with the next highest cumulative grade point average. This process will continue, in GPA order, until a qualified student accepts the role.

Tie

If two or more students have identical cumulative unweighted GPAs, down to the hundredth after the decimal point, at the conclusion of the ranking process, they shall be recognized as Co-Valedictorians.

Determination and Notification

The Superintendent or designee shall certify the final class rankings.

The student(s) selected as Valedictorian shall be notified as soon as practicable following the calculation of final rankings.

Graduation Ceremony

The Valedictorian shall be invited to deliver the valedictory address at commencement exercises. If Co-Valedictorians are named, the Superintendent shall determine an appropriate format for student remarks that recognizes each student's achievement.

Final Authority

The Superintendent shall be responsible for interpreting and implementing this policy. Any questions regarding the calculation of GPA or class rank shall be resolved by the Superintendent in accordance with District policy and administrative regulations. The Superintendent's determination shall be final unless otherwise required by law.

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 participates in the 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 the 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

Adoption Date: August 8, 2006
Revised Date: February 10, 2009
Revised Date: August 11, 2009
Revised Date: March 13, 2018
Revised Date: August 11, 2026