

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Oradell Board of Education endorses a sixth-grade commencement exercise. The date of the commencement ceremony shall be recommended annually by the chief school administrator and approved by the board.

Guidelines for Commencement Activities

Student participation in special graduation year activities will require conduct of the highest caliber in all school situations.

Criteria for exclusion from these activities concern consistent behavioral patterns and shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Consistent involvement in disciplinary action(s);
- B. Suspension.

The final decision shall be made by the chief school administrator.

Students and parents/guardians shall be given advance notification of these criteria.

Commencement Procedures and Ceremonies

No student shall be barred from participation in commencement ceremonies for arbitrary or discriminatory reasons. A student who may be prevented from participation and his/her parents/guardians shall be notified in advance.

When a student or his/her parents/guardians experiences financial hardship and is unable to pay the costs of participation in commencement ceremonies, the board shall assume the costs.

Financial hardship shall be defined by eligibility standards for free and reduced price meals under the state school lunch program.

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

Awarding of Diplomas

The president of the board of education and/or another designated member of the board shall award the diplomas and serve as the commencement speaker on behalf of the Board of Education. Board members and former board members shall be afforded the opportunity to award diplomas to their own children.

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES (continued)

The board shall not prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in any district school, consistent with guidance issued by the United States Department of Education and applicable judicial decisions interpreting the religion clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Adopted: July 15, 2009
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NJSBA Review/Update: January 2019
Readopted: December 11, 2019, April 12, 2023, June 28, 2023

Key Words

Commencement Activities, Graduation Ceremonies, Voting, Voting Registration

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:36-27 Voting information
N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2 Causes for suspension or expulsion of students
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
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 et seq. Student conduct

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

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

R.L. v. Kingsway Regional Board of Education, 95 NJAR 2d (EDU) 296

D.C. v. Parsippany Troy Hills Board of Education, 96 NJAR 2d (EDU) 697

DO'G v. Ridgefield Park Board of Education, 96 NJAR 2d (EDU) 820

R.F. v. Park Ridge Board of Education, 97 NJAR2d (EDU) 1

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

Possible

Cross References: *5113 Attendance, Absences and excuses
*5114 Suspension and expulsion
*5126 Awards for achievement
*5131 Conduct/discipline
*6111 School calendar
*6115 Ceremonies and observances
*6141.2 Recognition of religious beliefs and customs
*6146 Graduation requirements

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