

## **Graduation Ceremonies And Activities**

### Participation in High School Graduation Ceremony

To participate in the high school graduation ceremony, a student must meet all graduation requirements.

To encourage and support the purpose and integrity of the high school educational program during the senior year, the district establishes the following minimum requirements for each student's participation in the high school graduation ceremony:

Students are only eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony of the school from which they will earn their diploma.

Graduating students enrolled in any district Alternative Education program who desire to participate in the graduation ceremony at another district high school, must transition to the high school by the last school day of January of the senior year.

In cases of enrollment in an Alternative Education program due to a documented catastrophic medical/social-emotional circumstance, a student may be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony at another district high school at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.

Foreign exchange students who have not met all district diploma requirements but who are classified as seniors in good standing, may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of recognition.

(cf. 6146.1 - Graduation)

### Behavioral Expectations/Conduct

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the Superintendent or designee may deny a student the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with district regulations and school rules.

(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

A senior student who receives an off-campus suspension from school in the second semester will be notified if a second off-campus suspendable offense occurs, they may not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Any senior student who receives an off-campus suspension within the last 20 school attendance days may be denied the privilege of participating in the graduation ceremony, even if that off-campus suspension is the student's first off-campus suspension during their senior year.

After senior check-out, but before the graduation ceremony, any student engaging in inappropriate or suspendable conduct may not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

## Loss/Damages

In cases where a senior student has willfully damaged the property of the district, or failed to return the property of the district that has been loaned to the student, that student may be denied the privilege of participating in the graduation ceremony until the student or student's parent or guardian has paid for the damage or replacement costs of the district's personal property.

The principal or administrative designee of the student's high school will provide written notice of unpaid amounts accrued and due to the district (under Education Code section 48904) based upon the student's damage or other injury to district personal property, or the student's failure to return personal property of the district loaned to the student.

If the student and parents/guardians are unable to pay for the damages or return the property, the Superintendent or designee shall provide a program of voluntary work for the student in lieu of monetary damages.

Until the damages are paid or upon completion of the voluntary work, the district is authorized to withhold the grades, diploma, and/or transcripts of the student responsible for the damage.

Student and parent/guardians will be informed that failure of the student to pay the amounts due under Education Code section 48904 may result in revocation of the student's privilege to participate in a graduation ceremony.

(cf. 3515.4 – Recovery for Property Loss of Damage)  
(cf. 5125.2 - Withholding Grades, Diploma or Transcripts)

## Graduation Practice Attendance

Each student is required to attend the scheduled graduation practice/s at the school from which the student is graduating. Unless the absence is approved by the principal, failure to attend the scheduled practice/s may result in the revocation of the student's privilege to participate in the graduation ceremony.

## Student Attire

Students are required to wear the school's district approved professional and ceremonial attire, including cap, gown, tassel and stole at the graduation ceremony.

The District recognizes that the diversity of each of the school communities enriches our schools, strengthens our students' educational experiences, and prepares students as global citizens. Therefore, with approval and verification prior to senior check-out, a student may wear religious or ceremonial adornments at school graduation ceremonies provided that it is worn under the school's graduation stole and/or cap.

A student may wear an academic or cultural adornment that is issued by the District/high school and/or approved organizations at school graduation ceremonies provided that it is worn under the school's graduation stole and/or cap.

The District prohibits any item that is may to cause a substantial disruption of, or interference with, the ceremony or to expand or diminish any student rights established under specified provisions related to school dress codes and student freedom of speech.

## Parent Notification and Appeal

Each high school student and parent/guardian shall receive annual notification of this policy and regulation as related to participation, behavioral expectations/conduct, loss/damages, and graduation practice attendance. High school seniors shall also receive additional notification of this policy and regulation at the beginning of the second semester.

Prior to denial of the privilege of graduation, the student, and their parent/guardian, shall be made aware of the grounds for such denial and shall be given an opportunity to respond. If a privilege of participation in the graduation ceremony is to be denied, the student and parent/guardian shall receive notice of the denied privilege and the means whereby they may appeal the decision.

*Fresno Unified School District does not harass, intimidate, or discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity or expression or genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, parental or marital status, military veteran status, or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.*

Regulation FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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