

PROTOCOL FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND SENIOR ACTIVITIES

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION IS THE CULMINATION OF A STUDENT'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN A DIGNIFIED FASHION TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STUDENTS. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE SCHOOL BOARD THAT GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES SHALL BE DEDICATED TO AND FOCUSED ON THE STUDENTS.

RULES:

1. Stage platform guests shall be limited to students, school and district staff, and school board members, unless Rule 9 of this policy is applied.
2. No public or elected official, other than a school board member, shall participate in a school's graduation ceremony, unless Rule 9 of this policy is applied.
3. The organization and administration of the graduation ceremony (e.g. graduation program, music selection, ticket distribution to invited guests) shall be the responsibility of the school's principal.
4. All schools must have a diverse site-based committee comprised of the principal, an assistant principal and an instructional staff member to review student speeches. The principal is responsible for final approval of student speeches.
5. All speeches must adhere to the language in Policy 1344 regarding the content of comments and speeches at school-board sponsored ceremonies being non-sectarian, non-denominational, non-discriminatory in nature pursuant to the Florida Educational Equity Act, does not contain hate speech and is historically accurate.
6. Students who have completed their graduation requirements at the end of the first semester of their senior year may participate in the annual graduation ceremony unless they have violated any of the rules set forth in the Secondary Code of Student Conduct, including the Florida Educational Equity Act during the time period from January to June.
7. The conduct and responsibility of students attending graduation activities including graduations, rehearsals, proms, and other senior activities shall follow the rules set forth in the Secondary Code of Student Conduct, including the Florida Educational Equity Act. All students who violate any of the rules of student conduct at any of these graduation activities, including students who have met their graduation requirements in January, will be excluded from participating in the graduation ceremony in June.
8. A school may schedule a mid-year graduation ceremony for students who have elected to complete high school prior to the scheduled end of the school year.
9. The Superintendent is authorized to waive any provision in this policy when deemed appropriate.

Policy Custodian: Office of School Performance & Accountability

Authority: F.S. § 1001.41

Laws Implemented: F.S. § 1001.41(1); F.S. § 1000.05(2a)

History: Adopted 06/06/00

Amended 03/15/22