



Huntington Beach Union High School District Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

BP 5127
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Students

Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies

Commencement Ceremony

Only those students fulfilling all Huntington Beach Union High School District diploma requirements may participate in graduation exercises. The exception to this policy is:

1. Students enrolled in special education programs for which the California Alternative Assessment (CAA) standards are appropriate due to the level of the student's functioning, may receive a Certificate of Educational Achievement and participate in the graduation ceremony, upon completion of four (4) years of high school, commensurate with their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

A non-graduating senior having an approved Education Plan on file may earn a diploma indicating his/her original class providing:

1. All remaining requirements are completed within the Huntington Beach Union High School District.
2. All requirements are completed by August 15 in the same year their class graduates.

Invocations and/or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. Ceremonies or programs involving prayers for graduates shall not be sponsored by the school or district.

Disciplinary Considerations

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with district and school rules. Prior to denial of the privilege, the student, and where practicable his/her parent/guardian, shall be made aware of the grounds for such denial and shall be given an opportunity to respond. If a privilege is to be denied, the student and parent/guardian shall receive written notice of the denied privilege and the means whereby he/she may appeal the decision.

Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies (continued)

Honors and Awards

As part of the commencement program, the following students may receive added recognition including, but not limited to:

- Academy of Performing Arts (APA)
- Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) Awards
- CSF Sealbearers
- National Honors Society
- STAR Achievers
- Scholars with Distinction
- Scholars with Honors
- Scholars with Expertise
- Magna Cum Laude (GPA of 4.0-4.39 at the end of the 7th semester).
- Summa Cum Laude (GPA of 4.4 or higher at the end of the 7th semester).

Conduct at Graduation Ceremonies

Any student participating in a graduation ceremony shall comply with district policies and regulations pertaining to student conduct.

However, any graduating student who has completed basic training and is an active member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces may, at his/her option, wear his/her military dress uniform at the ceremony. (Education Code 35183.3)

Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35183.3 Graduation ceremonies; military dress uniforms
- 38119 Lease of personal property; caps and gowns
- 48904 Liability of parent or guardian; withholding of grades, diplomas, transcripts
- 51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students
- 51410 - 51412 Diplomas

COURT DECISIONS

- Cole v. Oroville Union High School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092
- Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe, (2000) 530 U.S. 290
- Lee v. Weisman, (1992) 505 U.S. 577
- Sands v. Morongo Unified School District, (1991) 53 Cal. 3d 863
- Lemon v. Kurtzman, (1971) 403 U.S. 602

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Department of Education, High School: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gs/hs/>

- Policy adopted: 2/12/87
- Revised: 3/11/97
- Revised: 4/18/06
- Revised: 11/10/09
- Revised: 10/9/12
- Revised: 6/27/17