

Participation in Commencement Exercises

Statement of Policy

A student's right to participate in a commencement exercise of the graduating class at Cascade High School is an honor. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all of the state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diplomas at that time.

Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation exercises according to academic class standing or class officer status. Any student who, because of academic class standing, is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

The school administrators shall not censor any presentation or require any content but may advise the participants about appropriate language for the audience and occasion. Students selected to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, prayer, or any other pronouncement of their choosing.

The printed program for the commencement exercises shall include the following paragraphs:

Any presentation by participants of graduation exercises is the private expression of the individual participants and does not necessarily reflect any official position of the District, its Board, administration, or employees, nor does it necessarily indicate the views of any other graduates.

The Board recognizes that at graduation time and throughout the course of the educational process, there will be instances when religious values, religious practices, and religious persons will have some interaction with the public schools and students. The Board, while not endorsing any religion, but recognizes the rights of individuals to have the freedom to express their individual political, social, or religious views, for this is the essence of education.

Legal Reference:	Art. XI, Sec. 5, Montana Constitution - Freedom of religion
	Art. X, Sec. 7, Montana Constitution - Nondiscrimination in education
	§20-5-201(3), MCA Duties and Sanctions
	§ 20-1-308, MCA Religious instruction released time program
	§ 20-7-112, MCA Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted

Policy History:

Adopted on: May 15, 2001

Revised on: December 18, 2007

Revised on: January 20, 2009