

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Springfield, New Jersey 07081

POLICY: COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Board endorses graduation activities and ceremonies. The date of graduation shall annually be recommended by the Chief School Administrator and approved by the Board.

Graduation shall not occur prior to completion of the required 180 days of pupil instruction.

Guidelines for Graduation Year Activities

Pupil 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.

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

Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies

No pupil shall be barred from participation in graduation ceremonies for arbitrary or discriminatory reasons. A pupil who may be prevented from participation and his/her parents/guardians shall be so notified in advance and no later than 10 days prior to the close of the school year.

The Board reserves the right to deny participation in graduation activities when extreme circumstances warrant it. Such denial shall be treated in the same manner as a suspension and the pupil so affected shall be afforded the rights of review provided in policies of this Board. The Board reserves the right to withhold a diploma and transcripts until all fines are paid.

Awarding of Diplomas

The President of the Board of Education and/or another designated member of the Board shall award the diplomas. Board members and former Board members shall be afforded the opportunity to award diplomas to their own children.

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:37-2 Causes for suspension or expulsion of pupils

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)

R.L. v. Kingsway Regional Board of Education, 95 NJAR2d (EDU) 296

D.C. v. Parsippany Troy Hills Board of Education, 96 NJAR2d (EDU) 697

DO'G v. Ridgfield Park Board of Education, 96 NJAR2d (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)

Cross References:

5113 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

Approved: June 30, 1997

Revised: August 18, 2008