ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 322

GRADUATION CEREMONY PARTICIPATION

BACKGROUND

Typically, students take thirteen years to complete graduation requirements, from the time of entry into Kindergarten until they complete their Grade 12 year. Some students require an extra year to complete graduation requirements. In addition, some students engage in activities such as exchanges, athletics, homeschooling, or alternate education that require them to attend other schools or access distributed learning opportunities to complete graduation requirements, but they remain connected to a particular school in the District and do not have the opportunity to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Participation in graduation ceremonies is both a recognition of achievement and a social event that is celebrated along with peers. There should be consistency in the District about when and if students participate in the graduation ceremonies and associated festivities (proms and dry grad celebrations) held by secondary schools and District programs.

PROCEDURES

- 1. Students who are on track to meet all graduation requirements by the end of the school year (or the end of the summer in the case of students taking Work Experience or Dual Credit Programs) may participate in graduation ceremonies.
- 2. Participating in graduation ceremonies is a recognition of achievement or the completion of an educational pathway. Principals or designates will set a reasonable date in the Spring at which students must be in a position to meet all graduation requirements by the end of the summer to be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. If students are not on track to graduate:
 - 2.1. the Principal or designate must meet with the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to share the information that the student is not on track to meet graduation requirements and may not participate in the graduation ceremony;
 - 2.2. the Principal or designate may determine that it is appropriate for the student to participate in the social festivities that accompany the graduation ceremony (e.g.: prom, dry grad, field trips) with their peers, but not the graduation ceremony itself;
 - 2.3. the Principal or designate will develop a clear plan for the student to meet graduation requirements by the end of the following school year (or following semester), in collaboration with the student, their parent(s)/guardian(s), the school counsellor, the student's case manager if applicable, or other school personnel as appropriate;
 - 2.4. the plan is accompanied by a signed agreement that lays out the requirements;
 - 2.5. if the student does not comply with the requirements of the plan, every effort will be made to support that student to develop another plan; and

- 2.6. the student will be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony held the following June if they are on track to graduate by that date.
- 3. Students with disabilities or diverse abilities on the Evergreen pathway have rich, individualized programs that may, as part of their Competency-Based Individual Education Plan (CBIEP), include an additional year of service after completion of their Grade 12 year. To decide this:
 - 3.1. the Principal or designate, in collaboration with the student (if appropriate), their parent(s)/guardian(s), and the student's case manager, will determine whether it is more appropriate for the student to participate in a graduation ceremony with their peers or at the time that they complete their educational program.
- 4. Some students who are not enrolled at a specific school may officially make a request to participate in the school's graduation ceremony.
 - 4.1. This may be considered if:
 - 4.1.1. the student has at one point, been a member of the school community, but has left to engage in other activities that do not allow them to remain part of the school community (e.g.: athletics, homeschooling, distributed learning, alternate education, international travel, etc.);
 - 4.1.2. the student either does not have the opportunity to participate or will not be participating in a graduation ceremony offered by the school in which they are currently enrolled or the program in which they are participating;
 - 4.1.3. the student will have met all graduation requirements in the school year in which the graduation ceremony will be held, and this is confirmed by the school or program in which the student is enrolled; and
 - 4.1.4. the student is in good standing with the District (e.g.: not expelled, suspended, or subject to a do not trespass order) and legally allowed to participate (e.g.: not under the conditions of a peace bond, no contact order, parole, or probation that does not allow contact with members of the graduating class or accessing the school).
 - 4.2. Special consideration will be given to students with Indigenous ancestry or with disabilities or diverse needs.

References:

Date Approved: September 2025