

District-sponsored high school graduation ceremonies are offered as a privilege for the purpose of recognizing the accomplishments of participating students. It is not necessary for a student to participate in graduation/commencement ceremonies in order to graduate from high school and receive a District high school diploma.

Eligible students who choose to attend and participate in a graduation ceremony or in a related District-sponsored activity that is similarly offered as a privilege (e.g., certain non-required senior class activities) must abide by any rules, directives, or standards that the District establishes on topics such as dress, conduct/decorum, participation in rehearsal(s), etc.

Any District student who has satisfied or exceeded the requirements to graduate from high school and receive a high school diploma in the relevant school year is academically eligible to participate in that year's District-sponsored graduation ceremony. Accordingly, most students will participate in the graduation ceremony that is held for the school year in which the student receives his/her high school diploma and after which the student will not be returning to high school. However:

1. The *High School Principal* may approve exceptions to the academic eligibility criteria and/or to the timing of a student's participation where the administration determines that extenuating circumstances justifying the exception are present. However, if any student is permitted to participate in a graduation ceremony without having satisfied applicable graduation requirements, the student will not receive an official high school diploma at the ceremony.
2. For a student with a disability, the individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team may, upon review of the student's IEP or Section 504 plan and the student's progress, approve the timing and conditions of the student's participation in a high school graduation ceremony if an individualized exception to standard criteria is deemed appropriate and regardless of whether the student will receive a regular high school diploma at the ceremony. However, a student with a disability shall not be required to involuntarily accept such an accommodation and, and as a result, waive his/her participation in a graduation ceremony pursuant to other established criteria.

The administration may deny an otherwise-eligible student the privilege of participating in a District-sponsored high school graduation ceremony and/or in any related District-sponsored activity that is similarly offered as a privilege when students have an excess of ten unexcused absences and show no clear effort to improve their attendance. Students and parents/guardians will be notified if this is true for their child. Students with any unpaid fees, fines, or refuse to return district property may also be prevented from participating in District-sponsored activities, such as the graduation ceremony.

In addition, the High School Principal may deny an otherwise-eligible student the privilege of participating in a high school graduation ceremony and/or in any related District-sponsored activities as a District-imposed consequence for a rule violation or other conduct, provided that there is a lawful and non-arbitrary reason for doing so. *A student's out-of-school conduct may give rise to such a consequence if the administration determines that, as a result of such conduct, the student's participation in the activity would substantially detract from the purpose of the activity or could reasonably be expected to cause a disruption of the activity.* Time permitting, any such decision may be appealed to the District Administrator for his/her review or reconsideration.

Legal Ref: 118.13; 118.33 (1); 120.13 Wisc. Statutes  
PI 5, PI 9, PI 18 Wisc. Admin Code

ADOPTED: 5/6/19