

Students

SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

Any student who has satisfactorily completed all graduation requirements will be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony and all related graduation activities of his or her graduating class subject to certain exceptions. Students may be prohibited from participating in the graduation ceremony or related graduation activities as a consequence of violating the District's *Code of Conduct*; having outstanding financial obligations to the school; or not adhering to the Districts' dress code for graduation, which will be reviewed by administration each year and shared with students and parents prior to June 1st.

The District permits any student to participate in the graduation ceremony and all related graduation activities of his or her high school graduating class, if the student has been awarded a Skills and Achievement (SA) Commencement Credential or a Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential, but has not otherwise qualified to receive a Regents or local diploma. While permitted to participate, these students are not required to participate in the graduation ceremony or related graduation activities of his or her high school graduating class. For purposes of this policy with respect to students being awarded only a SA Commencement Credential or a CDOS Commencement Credential, the earliest a student can participate in the graduation ceremony is when a student's high school graduating class is the twelfth-grade class with which he or she entered into ninth grade. However, a student and/or parent can opt for the student to participate in the graduation ceremony at a later date. In either case, it should be noted that a student will be afforded the opportunity to participate in only one graduation ceremony.

*The District permits any student to participate in the graduation ceremony and all related graduation activities of his or her high school graduating class (or a maximum of 1 year previous to his /her 9th grade cohort), if the student has successfully completed all requirements to obtain a High School Equivalency Diploma provided the student attended a District approved all-day program that met 5 days per week throughout the year immediately preceding graduation. The all-day program may include a combination of instruction for the GED and a BOCES CTE class. Students and parents selecting this option realize that at graduation when diploma types are read for students, "High School Equivalency Diploma" will be read. Students obtaining High School Equivalency Diplomas via other methods (i.e. evening classes, "Adult" GED programs, etc.) or programs not approved by the District will **not be** allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies and activities.*

The District will provide annual written notice of this policy and any related procedures to applicable students and their parents or guardians.

Education Law § 3204(4-b)
8 NYCRR § 100.2(oo)

Adopted: 11/19/19
Updated: 11/14/2023