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DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

IKDB-R Commencement Ceremonies

~~2/10/22~~ x/x/24

GSBA Reference: IKDB (Graduation Ceremonies)

1 RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

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3 The Cobb County School District (District) shall recognize regular high school graduates through
4 the awarding of diplomas signifying their completion of high school graduation requirements.

5 6 RULE:

7 8 9 A. REQUIREMENTS ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE:

10 No student shall receive a diploma from a District high school until all diploma requirements
11 have been met as specified in Administrative Rule IHF-R (Graduation Requirements).
12 Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) may participate in the commencement
13 ceremony if they have fulfilled all the requirements for graduation as outlined in their IEP.

14 1. Unpaid Fines/Fees:

15 Students shall not be eligible to participate in commencement ceremonies if debts related
16 to lost or damaged instructional resources such as textbooks, media materials, classroom
17 instructional materials, or instructional equipment remain unpaid (see Administrative Rule
18 DFJ-R [District Property Replacement/Restitution] and Administrative Rule ECH-R
19 [Authorized Uses of Equipment and Supplies]). However, no student shall be excluded
20 from commencement ceremonies because of poverty or inability to pay. Indigent students
21 should contact the Principal to develop an appropriate payment plan for fees owed.

22 2. Suspension/Expulsion:

23 If the student is under suspension/expulsion during the last day school is in session
24 of his/her final semester before qualifying for graduation, he/she shall not participate in
25 nor attend the school's commencement activities. He/she may participate in the District's
26 summer commencement.

27 28 B. ACCOMODATION(S) FOR GRADUATES:

29 All students who have met requirements for graduation will be provided the
30 opportunity to fully participate in the school commencement, regardless of any
31 temporary or permanent impairment or disability. If an impairment or disability
32 exists, the parent/guardian shall be provided with options for the student to
33 participate in the least restrictive manner possible.

34 1. Participation Plan:

- 35 a. Each student with a temporary or permanent impairment or disability shall
36 have a participation plan including details about where the student will be
37 seated, and accommodation(s) required.
38 b. Parents/guardians shall be provided a copy of the participation plan and
39 sign/approve the plan prior to the commencement ceremony.

40 2. Communication:

- 41 a. Parents/guardians shall be provided information regarding venue
42 accommodations prior to the ceremony.
43 b. Information regarding accessing the venue, including information about
44 accessible parking areas and routes from the parking lot to the seating area
45 shall be provided to parents/guardians.

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C. PROCEDURES VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN:

The following procedures shall govern commencement ceremonies:

1. **Elementary/Middle School:**

Activities recognizing students exiting elementary school or middle school or from one level to another within those schools shall be designed so as not to resemble high school commencement ceremonies or to involve diplomas or certificates of completion.

2. **Valedictorian/Salutatorian:**

It is the school's option to recognize the valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class in accordance with Administrative Rule IHA-R (Grading Systems).

D. PROMOTION CELEBRATION:

Activities recognizing students exiting elementary school or middle school or from one level to another within those schools shall be designed so as not to resemble high school commencement ceremonies or to involve diplomas or certificates of completion.

Adopted: 8/12/81
Revised: 4/28/83; 8/8/84; 2/12/87; 6/12/91; 7/28/94; 8/9/95; 2/1/02
Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04
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Revised: 7/3/14; 2/10/22; **x/x/24**