

**LAGUNA BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES**

**BP 5127**

Students

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have earned a diploma by successfully completing the required LBUSD course of study, satisfying district standards, and passing any required assessments. The Governing Board believes that these students deserve the privilege of a public celebration that recognizes the significance of their achievement and encourages them to continue the pursuit of learning throughout their lives.

High school students who have passed the California High School Proficiency Examination or the General Educational Development Test must also meet district graduation requirements in order to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Students who re-enroll in LBUSD in twelfth grade, other than foster youth, homeless students, former juvenile court school students, and students of military families as specified above, are not eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. Exceptions to this restriction can be approved by the Superintendent or their designee on a case-by-case basis. A foster youth, homeless student, or former juvenile court school student who transfers into the district any time after completing their second year of high school shall be required to complete all graduation requirements specified in Education Code 51225.3 but shall be exempt from any additional district-adopted graduation requirements, unless the Superintendent or designee makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate by the end of their fourth year of high school. Within 30 days of the transfer, any student shall be notified of the availability of the exemption and whether they qualify for it.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall facilitate the on-time graduation of children of military families by waiving specific course requirements for graduation if the student has satisfactorily completed similar coursework in another district.

**Disciplinary Considerations**

In order to encourage high standards of student conduct and behavior, the principal may deny a student the privilege of participating in graduation ceremonies and/or activities in accordance with school rules. Students denied any graduation-related activities shall be notified two weeks prior to the graduation ceremony, unless the suspension offense occurs within the last two weeks of the end of school, with all appeals finalized prior to graduation day. Cases which occur that cannot proceed through the normal review and appeal process will be decided by the school principal and Superintendent or designee. Levels of a normal review would include the Site administrative discipline team followed by the Principal/Superintendent or designee.

## **Early Graduation**

Students who desire to graduate at the end of their sixth or seventh term must submit a written request to graduate early to their principal or their designee.

Students, who complete graduation requirements, meet State testing requirements in their sixth or seventh term, and meet minimum UC A-G requirements to graduate early are eligible to participate in all June graduation exercises and senior activities as determined by the site administration.

Students must declare in their written early graduation request whether they wish to be part of the June graduation exercises and receive their diploma at that time, or request to receive their diploma upon termination of enrollment. Statistical data from the school, including school, student name and address, grade point average, and future plans of all early graduates shall be sent to the Superintendent, or their designee, by mid-January each school year.

Invocations, prayers, or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. The school or district shall not sponsor other ceremonies or programs for graduates that include prayer.

## **Honors and Awards**

The Superintendent or designee shall identify other school-sponsored awards which may be given during graduation exercises. A separate awards program may be held to recognize graduating students receiving other school and non-school awards.

## **Conduct at Graduation Ceremonies**

Any student participating in a graduation ceremony shall comply with district policies and regulations pertaining to student conduct.

The Superintendent or designee may require graduating students to wear ceremonial attire, such as cap and gown, at the ceremony and any other appropriate attire listed in Education Code 35183.1.

However, any graduating student who has completed basic training and is an active member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces may, at their option, wear their military dress uniform at the ceremony.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35183.1 Graduation ceremonies

35183.3 Graduation ceremonies; military dress uniforms

38119 Lease of personal property; caps and gowns

48904 Liability of parent or guardian; withholding of grades, diplomas, transcripts

51225.5 Honorary diplomas; foreign exchange students

51410-51412 Diplomas

COURT DECISIONS

Cole v. Oroville Union High School District, (2000, 9th Cir.) 228 F.3d 1092

Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe, (2000) 530 U.S. 290

Lee v. Weisman, (1992) 505 U.S. 577

Sands v. Morongo Unified School District, (1991) 53 Cal. 3d 863

Lemon v. Kurtzman, (1971) 403 U.S. 602

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