

IKDB-R Commencement Ceremonies

10/17/24

GSBA Reference: IKDB (Graduation Ceremonies)

RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

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

RULE:**A. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE:**

No student shall receive a diploma from a District high school until all diploma requirements have been met as specified in Administrative Rule IHF-R (Graduation Requirements).

Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) may participate in the commencement ceremony if they have fulfilled all the requirements for graduation as outlined in their IEP.

1. Unpaid Fines/Fees:

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

2. Suspension/Expulsion:

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

B. ACCOMODATION(S) FOR GRADUATES:

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

1. Participation Plan:

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

2. Communication:

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

C. VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN:

It is the school's option to recognize the valedictorian and salutarian 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

Revised: 1/14/09; 10/12/11; 4/11/12

Revised and re-coded: 9/27/12 (Previously coded as Administrative Rule IKFB)

Revised: 7/3/14; 2/10/22; 10/17/24