

Brick Township Board of Education District Policy

Students

Series 5000

Commencement Activities

Policy 5127 [M]

Date Adopted: December 12, 2007

Date Revised: December 17, 2015

Page 1 of 2

The Board endorses graduation activities and ceremonies. The date of graduation shall annually be recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and approved by the Board.

Graduation shall not occur prior to completion of the required days of pupil instruction.

Guidelines for Graduation Year Activities

Pupil participation in special graduation year activities will require conduct of the highest caliber in all school situations.

Criteria for exclusion from these activities concern consistent behavioral patterns and shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Consistent involvement in disciplinary action(s);
- B. Suspension;

The final decision shall be made by the Superintendent of Schools.

Pupils and parents/guardians shall be given advance notification of these criteria.

Voting Information & Registration

Prior to graduation, the Board of Education shall provide a voter registration form and material describing the role of a citizen and the importance of voting to each eligible high school pupil.

Graduation Procedures & Ceremonies

No pupil shall be barred from participation in graduation ceremonies for arbitrary or discriminatory reasons. A pupil who may be prevented from participation and his/her parents/guardians shall be so notified in advance as soon as it can be determined that he or she will not meet graduation requirements.

The Board reserves the right to deny participation in graduation activities when extreme circumstances warrant it. Such denial shall be treated in the same manner as a suspension and the pupil so affected shall be afforded the rights of review provided in policies of this Board.

The Board reserves the right to withhold a diploma and transcripts until all fines are paid and all materials owned by the District not limited to textbooks, equipment, and uniforms are returned or monetarily compensated for.

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Page 2 of 2

Financial hardship shall be defined by eligibility standards for free and reduced price meals under the state school lunch program.

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The Board reserves the right to withhold a diploma and transcripts until all fines are paid.

Awarding of Diplomas

A Board Member or staff member shall present a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the amendments thereto, and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and the amendments thereto to each pupil upon graduation from elementary school.

The President of the Board of Education and/or another designated member of the Board or staff member shall award the diplomas. Board Members and former Board Members shall be afforded the opportunity to award diplomas to their own children.

The Board shall not prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in any district school, consistent with guidance issued by the United States Department of Education and applicable judicial decisions interpreting the religion clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Legal References

- NJSA 18A:7C-5.1 Boards of education prohibited from excluding students from graduation ceremony or from obtaining yearbook for inability to pay fees
- 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
- 18A:36-18 Books containing organic laws at graduation
- 18A:36-27 Voting information
- 18A:37-2 Causes for suspension or expulsion of pupils
- NJAC 6A:8-5.1 et seq. Implementation of Graduation Requirements
- 6A:16-7.1 et seq. Student Conduct
- Ballato v. Long Branch Board of Education, 1990 S.L.D. (August 20)
- Lee v. Weisman, 112 S.Ct. 2649 (1992)
- R.L. v. Kingsway Regional Board of Education, 95 NJAR2d (EDU) 296
- D.C. v. Parsippany Troy Hills Board of Education, 96 NJAR2d (EDU) 697
- DO'G v. Ridgefield Park Board of Education, 96 NJAR2d (EDU) 820
- R.F. v. Park Ridge Board of Education, 97 NJAR2d (EDU) 1
- American Civil Liberties Union v. Blackhorse Pike Regional Board of Education, 84 F.3d 1471 (3d Cir. 1996)