

SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BP 5127(a)

Student

Graduation Ceremonies and Activities

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have successfully completed the required course of study, passed the CAHSEE, and thereby earned the right to receive a diploma. Certificates of Achievement shall be presented to students who have Severe Handicapping conditions and do not participate in the general education program.

Certificates of Completion shall be presented to students who meet the required number of credits for graduation, but have not passed the CAHSEE. The graduating class of June 2007 is the final graduating class to receive a Certificate of Completion. Both groups of students, those who receive Certificates of Achievement or Certificates of Completion will be allowed to participate in commencement ceremonies.

Invocations and/or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. Ceremonies or programs involving prayer for graduates may not be sponsored by the school or district. (cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities) (cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression: Publications Code)

Disciplinary Considerations

While recognizing the importance of graduation ceremonies, the Board also desires to maintain high standards of student conduct and behavior. The principal may deny the privilege of participating in these ceremonies in accordance with school rules which provide for due process. (cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Elementary/Middle School Promotion Exercises

The Board desires that each elementary and middle school provide age-appropriate promotion exercises to recognize students who have completed the school's course of study.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

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
51400-51403	Elementary school diploma
51410	Diplomas: no indication of intellectual classification
51411	Residence as condition for graduation; prohibition
51412	Standards of proficiency

COURT DECISIONS

Harris v. Joint School District #241 (November 18, 1994) No. 93-35839,
U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit

Lee v. Weisman, (1992) 112 S.Ct. 2649

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

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

Mifflin County School District v. Stewart (PA. Cmwlth. 1986) 503 A.2d
1012 30 Educ. L.R. 403

Fowler v. Board of Education of the Hickory Administrative School Unit
(1978) 448 F. Supp. 497