



5390

## Graduation Ceremonies

*Policy 5390*

Original Adoption: 04/25/1967

Effective Date: 12/12/2012

Revision Dates: 02/29/1972, 08/28/1973, 06/12/1984, 05/27/2008, 12/11/2012

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### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the occasions for celebration of graduation from the Minneapolis Public Schools and receipt of honors and awards.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. Graduation ceremonies are reserved for those students who have completed the course of study required by the district to earn a high school diploma or who meet the criteria established by the Superintendent for participation in graduation exercises. There will be no formal graduation exercises for pre-K through grade 8 schools. Elementary and Middle schools may hold appropriate awards and recognition programs throughout the year.
- B. High School staff will arrange each spring for appropriate awards and recognition programs and graduation ceremonies.
- C. The District reserves the right to refuse permission for a student to participate in award and recognition programs or graduation ceremonies for inappropriate and/or destructive behavior.
  1. Behavior that may preclude a student's attendance and participation at the graduation ceremony of the student's school include, but are not limited to:
    - a. destroying or damaging school property;
    - b. significant disruption of the school day or activities;
    - c. injuring or harming people or animals;
    - d. engaging in extreme instances of disrespect toward fellow students or district staff.
  2. The school principal shall notify the appropriate superintendent of any students whose presence at the graduation ceremony will be denied due to student behavior prior to the ceremony.
  3. The parents or guardians of excluded students shall be notified by the principal of any decision to exclude a student from participating in a ceremony.
  4. Students excluded from participation in the graduation ceremony may receive their diploma from the principal at a time arranged between the student and the principal.
- D. The District reserves the right to refuse permission for a student to participate in award and recognition programs or graduation ceremonies for failure to return books and materials assigned to the student, or failure to pay fines incurred for lost or damaged books or other materials. Principals may waive fines or costs of replacement at their discretion and permit participation in graduation ceremonies.



1. The school principal shall notify the appropriate superintendent of any students whose participation in the graduation ceremony will be denied due to the failure of the student to clear all fines or return all assigned books and materials.
  2. The parents or guardians of excluded students shall be notified by the principal of any decision to exclude a student from participating in a ceremony.
  3. Students excluded from participation in the graduation ceremony may receive their diploma from the principal at a time arranged between the student and the principal.
- E. In accordance with state law, students shall not be charged fees for rental or purchase of graduation caps, gowns or diplomas. Schools may charge fees for other costs connected with the graduation ceremonies. Principals have the authority to waive fees for students so that no student who is eligible and wishes to participate in graduation ceremonies is prevented from doing so by their inability to pay the fees charged.

### III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Superintendent is authorized to promulgate such regulations as are necessary to implement this policy.
- B. Principals are responsible for communicating this policy to all students and their families. They are responsible for granting waivers of fees or fines to those students whose inability to pay fees charged would prevent their participation in graduation ceremonies.

#### **Legal References:**

Minn. Stat. §120B.30 (Statewide Testing and Reporting System)  
Minn. Stat. §123B.34 *et seq.* (Minnesota Public School Fee Law)  
Minn. Stat. §125A.04 (High School Diploma)

#### **Cross References:**

MPS Policy 5391 (Graduation Requirements)  
MPS Policy 5392 (Diplomas)  
MPS Policy 5200 (City-wide Discipline)  
MPS Policy 6450 (Pupil Fees)

MPS Regulation 5390 A (Eligibility to Participate)  
MPS Regulation 5391 A (Granting Credits)  
MPS Regulation 5391 B (Graduation Requirements for Transfer Students)  
MPS Regulation 5392 A (Special Issuance of Diplomas)  
MPS Regulation 5392 B (Year of Diploma)  
MPS Regulation 6450 A (Pupil Fees: Permitted Prohibited and New Fees)