

INSTRUCTION

1 Participation in Commencement Exercises

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3 Statement of Policy

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5 A student’s right to participate in a commencement exercise of the graduating class at Jefferson
6 High School is an honor. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members
7 of the graduating class who have completed all state and local requirements for graduation before
8 the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of
9 commencement exercises will receive their diplomas at that time.

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11 Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

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13 The school district will permit students to honor their American Indian heritage through the
14 display of culturally significant tribal regalia at commencement ceremonies. Any item that
15 promotes drug use, weapon use, threats of violence, sexual harassment, bullying, or other
16 intimidation, or violates another district policy, state, or federal law may not be worn during
17 graduation.

18
19 The school administration may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation
20 exercises according to academic class standing or class officer status. Any student who, because
21 of academic class standing, is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

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23 The school administrators will censor any presentation or require any specific content but may
24 advise participants about appropriate language for the audience and occasion. Students selected
25 to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation,
26 prayer, or any other pronouncement of their choosing.

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28 The printed program for a commencement exercise will include the following paragraphs:

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30 *Any presentation by participants of graduation exercises is the private expression*
31 *of an individual participant and does not necessarily reflect any official position of the*
32 *District, its Board, administration, or employees, nor does it necessarily indicate the*
33 *views of any other graduates.*

34 *The Board recognizes that at graduation time and throughout the course of the*
35 *educational process, there will be instances when religious values, religious practices,*
36 *and religious persons will have some interaction with the public schools and students.*
37 *The Board, while not endorsing any religion, recognizes the rights of individuals to have*
38 *the freedom to express their individual political, social, or religious views.*

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40 Legal Reference: Art. II, Sec. 5, Montana Constitution - Freedom of religion
41 Art. X, Sec. 7, Montana Constitution - Nondiscrimination in education
42 Art. X, Sec. 1(2), Montana Constitution – Educational Goals and Duties
43 § 20-1-308, MCA Religious instruction released time program
44 § 20-5-201(3), MCA Duties and sanctions
45 § 20-7-112, MCA Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer
46 permitted
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1 Policy History:

2 Adopted on: February 2007

3 Revised on: January 20, 2009, March 2018

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5 *Note: Reference to 20-5-201(3) was added. 2018 lines 13 thru 17 added*