

Students

GRADUATION/PROMOTION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

AR 5127

Promotion Ceremony Participation Criteria – Grades 5 and 8

Participation in the fifth and eighth grade promotional ceremony is an earned privilege, not a right. In order to be eligible for participation in the promotion ceremony at the end of the school year (5th or 8th grade), there are behavioral expectations, attendance criteria, as well as academic achievement, which must be demonstrated throughout the fifth and eighth grade years.

School Promotion Ceremony Participation Criteria

District-approved criteria for eligibility and participation in 5th and 8th grade activities will be published and available at the beginning of the school year. During the final semester but no later than four weeks (Elementary) and at the 15-week marking period (6th-12th) before the end of the semester, the principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher and site counselor, will review each student's academic, discipline, and attendance record. The principal shall inform the student and parent/guardian if it is determined that a student will not participate in the promotional ceremony due to academics, unsatisfactory behavior, and/or attendance. Notification of non-participation may occur no later than four weeks before the end of the school year only if academic achievement, attendance, and conduct have not met the criteria.

A 7th/8th grade student contract will be presented and signed by an administrator/counselor, student and parent/guardian in order to comply with all criteria and be prepared to promote successfully (see Exhibit A). In addition, students in 7th and 8th grade will be required to meet 20 community service hours by the end of 8th grade (site-based opportunities).

If a student is in violation of any of the established criteria, parents/guardians will have the opportunity to proceed with an appeal process by the principal or designee. All appeals will be made to the principal for review by a school-based Appeals Committee that will be composed of the principal of the school, an assistant principal, and the student's counselor. All decisions from the Appeals Committee will be final.

Culmination Activities for Elementary School

The purpose for holding end-of-year activities is to give students and teachers an opportunity to summarize specific instructional objectives, to recognize the academic and nonacademic achievement or services of students, and to provide students the opportunity to demonstrate for others those performance skills

Students

GRADUATION/PROMOTION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

AR 5127

which can be appreciated by an audience. Although it has long been recognized that well-presented elementary culmination programs have a positive effect on student and parent appreciation of the instructional program and teacher efforts, the decision to present a culmination program rests with the local school administrator in consultation with teachers and parents or school-community groups.

End-of-year activities are district authorized and may be held during school hours when they conform to the following:

1. The activity or performance represents student work which is the result of specific instructional goals or objectives; or
2. A major class project, display or exhibit is used to present concepts learned during the school year; or
3. A demonstration or program is used to bring a project or unity of work to a significant conclusion; or
4. A special recognition program is used to commend the academic and nonacademic achievement, leadership, and service of students.

Administration will work with teachers, students and parents for the planning, preparation, and presentation of the program and other school community groups.

All students, per contract eligibility, who are leaving the school to go to the next educational level should be included in that portion of the culmination program which permits them to display their leadership ability, knowledge, and skills in an appropriate, positive manner and should receive some recognition or award.

To conserve instructional class time and to stay within the limits of the attention span of the audience, those in charge should limit culmination programs to no more than one hour.

The presentation of certain certificates may be part of the culmination program or part of a separate awards assembly and the use of graduation-like exercises and dress; however, the granting of diplomas is reserved specifically for high schools.

Students

GRADUATION/PROMOTION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

AR 5127

Activities that are not essentially direct outgrowths of classroom learning or of school goals or objectives shall not be district sponsored or district funded. Such activities, which are social or recreational, may be sponsored by outside groups after school hours. Parents should be informed that such groups will be responsible for the funding, safety and welfare of students, and general supervision of the activity, which will be neither school-sponsored nor endorsed.

Suggested Culmination Activities Include (but not limited to):

1. Classroom or Auditorium Programs
 - a. Presentations by students of class projects such as maps, murals, science projects, or notebooks
 - b. Group vocal or instrumental musical presentations
 - c. Field trips or excursions
 - d. Choral reading or speaking
 - e. Dance performances
 - f. Recognition of student achievement with leadership or service awards, attendance certificates, the President's Physical Fitness Award, or similar awards
 - g. Recognition of the members of the culminating classes
2. Playground Assemblies (possibilities)
 - a. Recognition of the members of classes
 - b. Recognition of student achievement with leadership or service awards, attendance certificates, the President's Physical Fitness Award or similar awards

Regulation

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved: November 14, 1995

Pasadena, California

Revised: June 4, 2008; December 18, 2014; September 24, 2020