

Graduation Ceremonies

Participation

A student's right to participate in a graduation ceremony at Poplar High School is an honor. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the senior class (or junior in the case of early graduation) who have completed all state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of graduation ceremony will receive their diplomas/certificates at that time.

Organization and Content of Graduation Ceremonies

The school administration may invite students to participate in the graduation ceremony according to academic class standing, class officer status or for other reasons at the discretion of school administration. Any student who is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

The school administrators will review any presentations and specific content, and may advise participants about appropriate language for the audience and occasion. Students selected to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation or any other pronouncement of their choosing.

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

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

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

Legal Reference:	Art. II, Sec. 5,	Montana Constitution - Freedom of religion
	Art. X, Sec. 7,	Montana Constitution – Nondiscrimination in education
	§ 20-5-201(3), MCA	Duties and sanctions
	§ 20-1-308, MCA	Religious instruction released time program
	§ 20-7-112, MCA	Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Revised on: 11 July 2016