



**COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

The Board of Trustees endorses graduation activities and ceremonies. The date of graduation shall annually be recommended by the Executive Director and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Graduation shall not occur prior to completion of the required 180 days of pupil instruction.

Guidelines for Graduation Year Activities

Pupil participation in special graduation year activities will require conduct of the highest caliber in all school situations.

Criteria for exclusion from these activities concern consistent behavioral patterns and shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Consistent involvement in disciplinary action(s);
- B. Suspension;

The final decision shall be made by the Executive Director.

Pupils and parents/guardians shall be given advance notification of these criteria.

Graduation Procedures and Ceremonies

No pupil shall be barred from participation in graduation ceremonies for arbitrary or discriminatory reasons. A pupil who may be prevented from participation and his/her parents/guardians shall be so notified in advance and no later than 10 days prior to the close of the school year.

When a pupil or his/her parents/guardians experiences financial hardship and is unable to pay the costs of participation in graduation ceremonies, the Board of Trustees shall assume the costs of the following items:

- A. Rental or purchase of cap and gown;
- B. One yearbook;
- C. Other, as may be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Financial hardship shall be defined by eligibility standards for free and reduced price meals under the state school lunch program.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to deny participation in graduation activities when extreme circumstances warrant it. Such denial shall be treated in the same manner as a suspension and the pupil so affected shall be afforded the rights of review provided in policies of this Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to withhold a diploma and transcripts until all fines are paid.

#### Awarding of Diplomas

The president of the Board of Trustees and/or another designated member of the Board of Trustees shall award the diplomas. Board of Trustees members and former Board of Trustees members shall be afforded the opportunity to award diplomas to their own children.

A Board of Trustees member shall present a copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the amendments thereto, and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and the amendments thereto to each pupil upon graduation from high school.

The Board of Trustees shall not prevent, or otherwise deny participation in, constitutionally protected prayer in any school school, consistent with guidance issued by the United States Department and applicable judicial decisions interpreting the religion clauses of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

**Board of Trustees Approval Date: 1/19/2010**