

COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Holmdel Township Board of Education endorses graduation activities and ceremonies. The date of graduation shall annually be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board.

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 is considered a privilege and will require conduct of the highest caliber in all school situations.

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

- A. Consistent involvement in disciplinary action(s);
- B. Suspension;
- C. Collaborative evaluation by the staff.

The final decision shall be made by the Superintendent upon the recommendation of the building principal.

Pupils and parents/guardians shall be given advance notification of these criteria and shall be kept informed throughout the year concerning student failure to meet commencement 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.

The Board reserves the right to deny participation 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.

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File Code: 5127

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

Source: Regular Board Meeting

Date: January 14, 1998

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:36-18	Books containing organic laws at graduation
<u>N.J.S.A.</u>	18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)

Ballato v. Long Branch Board of Education, 1990 S.L.D. (August 20)

Lee v. Weisman, 112 S.Ct. 2649 (1992)

American Civil Liberties Union v. Blackhorse Pike Regional Board of Education, No 93-2651 (District Court, March 29, 1994)

Possible

Cross References:

*5113	Absences and excuses
*5114	Suspension and expulsion
*5126	Awards for achievement
*5131	Conduct/discipline
*6111	School calendar
*6141.2	Recognition of religious beliefs and customs
*6146	Graduation requirements

*Indicates policy in included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

