

## **Participation in Graduation Exercises**

The Gadsden Independent School District School Board holds the belief that earning a diploma from public schools is not just a personal achievement but also a contribution to the betterment of the community. Hence, the Board aims to honor this accomplishment through publicly celebrated graduation ceremonies. These ceremonies will be held for students who have fulfilled the graduation requirements set by both the New Mexico Public Education Department and the Gadsden Independent School District.

## **Rules for Participation in High School Graduation Exercises**

Participation in high school graduation exercises is encouraged but is not compulsory. However, since these exercises require planning, rehearsals and appropriate conduct, the following rules shall apply:

- Students who wish to participate in graduation must be present at the graduation rehearsals. Failure to do so, except for legitimate reasons for absence, may be cause for excluding students from participating in the exercises.
- Students may not participate in the graduation exercises unless they have successfully completed the requirements for graduation and paid all fees, fines, and charges due.
- Students who do not participate in graduation exercises and who have completed all the requirements for a diploma and have paid all fees, fines, and charges due, may pick up their diploma from their school the following business day or thereafter.
- Students must wear the designated cap and gown. Student's gowns shall not be adorned. Nothing may be worn, written, painted, taped or attached in any manner to the gown. Students may, but are not required to, decorate their graduation cap under the following provisions:
  - Only the flat, top area of the cap may be decorated.
  - Decorations must be 2 inches or under if made into a 3-D decoration.
  - All decorated caps must be approved at rehearsal.
  - Approvals/denials will be based on the following additional guidelines:

- GISD Extra Curricular logos: FCCLA, TSA, BPA, NHS, Student Council, etc.
  - Thanking/Showing Appreciation for Family, Friends, Grandparents, etc.
  - Honoring a loved one you have lost;
  - Recognize the university you will attend;
  - Recognize the branch of the military you will be joining;
- Honor stoles/cords: only honor stoles or honor cords issued by GISD recognized school organizations or extracurricular activities or GISD approved affiliates may be worn during the graduation ceremony,

The campus administration shall develop annually a Graduation Agreement further supporting the formality of the ceremony. This agreement will outline the conduct, dress, regalia and other expectations for all parties participating in the ceremony. The Superintendent shall review these agreements prior to campus administration sharing with staff, students, and parents. Campus administration will keep documentation of this agreement being shared. Failure to comply with the Graduation Agreement may be cause for exclusion from the graduation exercises.

This policy will be effective for the 2023/2024 school year.

Approved: 4/25/2024