

Hamilton County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Graduation Activities	Descriptor Code: 4.607	Issued Date: 04/20/17
		Rescinded:	Revised: 12/13/18

1 Students who have met all graduation requirements on the day of graduation may participate in the
2 graduation ceremony.¹ The graduation ceremony is optional.

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4 Students who elect to participate in the ceremony are expected to behave with dignity and to conform
5 to the expectations and instructions of the school administration. Under no circumstances are students
6 permitted to be disruptive, to call undue attention to themselves, or to detract attention from another
7 student. Principals are authorized to withhold the printed diploma from any graduate who fails to adhere
8 to this policy subject to the completion of community service hours. The printed diploma also may be
9 withheld for students who have an outstanding debt, have not turned in a uniform, or other school
10 property. Any such graduate wishing to appeal a principal's decision may ask to meet with the Director
11 of Schools, whose decision shall be final.

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13 Graduation ceremonies and other graduation activities are not to have any religious elements. This
14 prohibition does not limit the speech rights of any student speaker so long as the speaker observes the
15 legitimate time, place, and manner restrictions that the school administration places on such speeches;
16 provided, however, that the graduation program shall have a disclaimer indicating that the views of any
17 student speaker are those of the speaker, that the speaker has the freedom to speak, and that the Hamilton
18 County Board of Education and its administration do not sponsor or endorse the speaker's views.

19
20 Principals shall ensure that students graduating with distinction and state honors are recognized at
21 graduation.² Additionally, principals shall ensure that high school students who voluntarily complete at
22 least ten (10) hours of community service each semester are recognized during the graduation
23 ceremony.³

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31 Legal Reference:

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33 1. TCA 49-6-405
34 2. State Board of Education Policy 2.103
35 3. State Board of Education Policy 2.103
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