

**TATUM INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Graduation Participation Requirement Form**

The purpose of this letter is to make sure that parents and seniors understand the position of the district and Tatum High School regarding the privilege of participating in TISD graduation ceremonies and what might lead to a student's forfeiture of the privilege to participate.

**BACKGROUND:** "Unlike receipt of a diploma, participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege, not a right." (Swany v San Ramon Valley Unified Sch Dist. 720 F Supp 764 (ND Cal, 1989). Although the ceremony is an important event, participation or non-participation does not alter the significance or value of the diploma (Lisa Swann, M.A.T/,. J.D.). The senior's right is to the diploma since he/she has earned the required credits for graduation, along with passing the state exit STARR Assessments. Once again, participation in the ceremony itself is a privilege and not a right.

**Outlined below are situations that would result in a senior losing the privilege to participate in the graduation ceremony:**

- A senior commits a violation of the school and district code of conduct and must be sent to DAEP, but there is not enough time left in the school year to serve the recommended number of days at DAEP. The student will not participate in graduation and this will be written in the placement order, along with being told at the discipline conference with parents and students.
- A senior, who was an early graduate, while at a school-sponsored activity, commits a violation of the school and district code of conduct that would require a DAEP placement. This senior would not participate in the graduation ceremony. *Serving days at DAEP is not an option for early graduates.*
- A senior must be in compliance of the 90% attendance rule (not on Loss of Credit) to participate in the graduation ceremony.
- A senior must be cleared of all fines.

If a senior is sent during the year to the DAEP, he/she will have the opportunity to participate in graduation if they follow all the rules and policies leading up to graduation when they return. Seniors will have to serve the time assigned at DAEP, return and be re-enrolled at least one calendar day prior to graduation to participate.

This form **must** be signed at the beginning of the year by the student, along with a parent/guardian that they understand the expectations for participation in the graduation ceremony. Seniors will be required to turn in the completed form to Betsy Yanas in the principal's office by **August 24, 2018**.

**Printed Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Parent/Guardian Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_