

Obion County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Graduation Activities	Descriptor Code: 4.606	Issued Date: 10/03/16
		Rescinds: 4.606	Issued: 12/05/11

- 1 Students who have met all graduation requirements on the day of graduation and students who are
2 within two (2) or fewer credits of meeting all requirements¹ and can complete the requirements during
3 the summer may participate in graduation activities and receive a blank diploma. If extenuating
4 circumstances exist at any school, the matter shall be presented to the Board prior to graduation
5 activities.
- 6 Students who have not met graduation requirements and who are allowed to participate in graduation
7 exercises will not be identified in any way.
- 8 Students are expected to participate in all graduation activities. Graduation apparel shall be determined
9 by the administration of each school and shall be the personal expense of each student, except for
10 students who are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches.² In such cases, the school shall
11 assume responsibility for payment of fees, provided, however, that the school shall not be responsible
12 for the expenses of graduation apparel if it consists only of the student's personal clothing. All other
13 graduation expenses shall be the responsibility of the Board.
- 14 Graduation ceremonies shall be physically accessible to all students, their parents and/or guardians,
15 and other interested citizens.³
- 16 Students who do not wish to participate in graduation activities shall make this known to the school
17 principal at least five (5) days prior to the day of graduation. Non-participating students will receive
18 their diplomas, or certificates, from the principal's office on the day following graduation ceremonies.
- 19 There shall be no sponsorship of a baccalaureate service or other activity which is religious in nature
20 by the Board or its employees, and no school funds, including paid staff time, will be used for such
21 activities.⁴
- 22 Students graduating with honors and distinction will be recognized at graduation.⁵ Honors and
23 distinction are defined in accordance with the state's High School Transition Policy as follows:
- 24 Students who score at or above all of the subject area readiness benchmarks on the ACT or equivalent
25 score on the SAT will graduate with honors. Students will be recognized as graduating with
26 distinction by attaining a B average and completing at least one of the following:
- 27 1. earn a nationally recognized industry certification;
 - 28
 - 29 2. participate in at least one of the Governor's Schools;
 - 30

- 1 3. participate in one of the state's All State musical organizations;
- 2
- 3 4. be selected as a National Merit Finalist or Semi-Finalist;
- 4
- 5 5. attain a score of 31 or higher composite score on the ACT; or
- 6
- 7 6. earn twelve (12) or more semester hours of transcribed postsecondary credit.

8 Students who graduate with honors and/or distinction will be recognized during the graduation
9 ceremonies and a seal shall be placed upon their diplomas in recognition of the outstanding
10 achievement.

11 Additionally, principals shall ensure that high school students who voluntarily complete at least ten
12 (10) hours of community service each semester are recognized during the graduation ceremony.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-405
2. TCA 49-2-1 14
3. 28 CFR § 36.201-2
4. Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 112 S. Ct. 2649, 120 L. Ed. 2d 467 (1992)
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(2)(c)(2); State Board of Education Policy 2.103

Cross References

Section 504/ADA Grievance Procedures 1.802 Student Fees and Fines 6.709