

## Hancock County Board of Education

Monitoring:  <b>Review: Annually, in December</b>	Descriptor Term:  <h3 style="text-align: center;">Graduation Activities</h3>	Descriptor Code: <b>4.606</b>	Issued Date: <b>11/10/16</b>
		Rescinds: <b>4.606</b>	Issued: <b>06/04/15</b>

- 1 Students who have met all graduation requirements on the day of graduation and students who are within
- 2 two (2) or fewer credits of meeting all requirements<sup>1</sup> and can complete the requirements during the
- 3 summer may participate in graduation activities. If extenuating circumstances exist at any school, the
- 4 matter shall be presented to the Board prior to graduation activities.
  
- 5 Students are expected to participate in all graduation activities, and graduation apparel shall be
- 6 determined by the administration of each school and shall be the personal expense of each student. Any
- 7 fees required for graduation ceremonies shall be waived for students who are eligible to receive free or
- 8 reduced price lunches, and in such cases, the school shall assume responsibility for payment of fees.<sup>2</sup>
  
- 9 Graduation ceremonies shall be physically accessible to all students, their parents and/or guardians, and
- 10 other interested citizens.<sup>3</sup>
  
- 11 Students who do not wish to participate in graduation activities shall notify the school principal in writing
- 12 at least five (5) days prior to the day of graduation. Non-participating students shall receive their
- 13 diplomas or certificates from the principal's office within one (1) week of the day of graduation.
  
- 14 The ceremony and all activities included shall not be religious in nature.<sup>4</sup> The content of any students'
- 15 speeches shall not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the school, employees,
- 16 or Board.
  
- 17 Principals shall ensure that students graduating with distinction and state honors are recognized at
- 18 graduation.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, principals shall ensure that high school students who voluntarily complete at
- 19 least ten (10) hours of community service each semester are recognized during the graduation ceremony.<sup>6</sup>

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Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-405
2. TCA 49-2-114
3. 28 CFR § 36.201
4. *Lee v. Weisman*, 505 U.S. 577(1992), 112 S. Ct. 2649, 120 L. Ed. 2d 467 (1992)
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.06(1)(c); State Board of Education Policy 2.103
6. State Board of Education Policy 2.103

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Cross References

- Section 504 & ADA Grievance Procedures 1.802  
 Student Fees and Fines 6.709