

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 10 a.

MEETING OF: August 9, 2023

ITEM TITLE:

PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY

Motion to revise Board Policy (BP) 5127
Graduation Ceremonies and Activities, in first
reading.

REVIEWED BY:

Policy Committee
 Superintendent

SUBMITTED BY: School Board Policy Committee

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL: Michael Robbins, Superintendent

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Policy Committee is proposing a revision to BP 5127 Graduation Ceremonies and Activities

ISSUE:

Board Bylaw 9300 states that "The formulation and adoption of written Board policies shall constitute the basic method by which the Board shall govern the school district." Board Policy 0500 and Board Bylaw 9311 both address the ongoing review of district policies and programs by the School Board.

BACKGROUND:

BP 5127 was unclear in the specific amount of credits a student can by shy of and still participate in their high school graduation ceremony. The proposed revision removes this guideline and allows for an appeal to the Superintendent by a student who feels they are being denied unfairly.

ATTACHMENTS:

- BP 5127 with proposed revisions

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

"I move that the Board of Education **revise Board Policy 5127 Graduation Ceremonies and Activities, in first reading.**"

Students BP 5127

GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

Note: The following policy suggests various options which may be modified to reflect district practice except that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that graduation ceremonies may not include school-sponsored prayers.

Note: Effective June 30, 2016 the requirement in AS 14.03.075 that a secondary student take a college and career readiness assessment before being issued a diploma is repealed.

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have earned the right to receive a diploma or a certificate of completion. Students earning a certificate of attendance may also participate in graduation ceremonies.

(cf. 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements)

cf. 6146.5 – Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs)

The following optional paragraph may specify whatever number of uncompleted credits the School Board wishes to allow or may be deleted.

~~At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, a student who is no more than _____ credits short of fulfilling district credit requirements may participate in graduation exercises without receiving his/her diploma. When the required credits have been earned, a diploma shall be sent to the student by mail.~~

Note: The following optional paragraph may be used to deny participation in graduation activities. School site rules should indicate what privileges may be denied for what reasons, and the means whereby students may appeal these decisions.

In accordance with school-site rules, the principal may deny a student the privilege of participating in graduation or promotion activities because of misconduct, including school related hazing or vandalism.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

School-sponsored invocations and/or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies.

Students may appeal to the Superintendent if they believe they are being denied unfairly.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.075 College and career readiness assessment; retroactive issuance of diploma

14.03.090 Sectarian or denominational doctrines prohibited

UNITED STATES CODE

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 9524, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110

Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Distr. V. Doe, 530 U.S. 20 (2000)

Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992)

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Revision Date: 8/13/08

Revision Date: 8/24/2016