

POLICY

Queen Anne's County Public Schools

EPS File Code:
BOE Resolution Number:

Policy Number:

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POLICY TITLE: Graduation Exercises		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: February 01, 2017	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: December 14, 2016	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED:
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Instruction		

A. Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to provide a consistent process for graduation exercises after a student has completed all state and local requirements.

B. Policy Statement

A representative of the Board of Education will be designated by the Board to award diplomas or certificates to those students successfully completing all the state and local requirements for graduation.

No formal graduation exercises for elementary or middle school children shall be permitted.

C. Rationale

Graduation is recognized as a ceremony of celebration when a student has met all the requirements of state (COMAR) and local educational guidelines.

For a student with a disability pursuing a certificate of program completion who has completed four years of high school beyond grade 8 and will continue to receive special education and related services from school district, shall be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony with classmates. A student with a disability pursuing a certificate of program completion who remains in school shall be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony with classmates upon completion of the school term in which they turn 21 years old.

D. Definitions

- 1) Diploma – a certificate issued by the State of Maryland that signifies the recipient has completed all credit requirements as established by state (COMAR) and local guidelines.
- 2) Certificate – a document issues by the state that signifies the recipient has met the special circumstances guidelines and has completed the requirements as established by the state (COMAR) and local guidelines.

- 3) Formal graduation exercises are marked by wearing of caps and gowns in an organized ceremony where each student is recognized individually before an audience of family, friends, and school staff.

E. Implementation

- 1) The Board of Education will establish each school year the date of the graduation exercises for the two schools.
- 2) School districts cannot discriminate against a student based on his or her disability, and so a school district must make reasonable accommodations to enable students with disabilities to participate fully and on equal terms in graduation ceremonies. By start of the second semester in January of each year, parents/guardians must notify the principals and/or designee of their intent to have their child participate in the graduation ceremonies to ensure reasonable accommodations may be provided.
- 3) The Superintendent is responsible for drafting procedural guidelines for the implementation of this policy.

F. Evaluation

The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education a review of this policy by _____. The focus of this review will be the effectiveness of the elements of this policy in assisting the Board in fulfilling its mission.

G. References

Board Approval Acknowledged By:

Mr. Gregory Pilewski, Secretary and Treasurer
Board of Education of Queen Anne's County

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Policy Action Dates					
ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE	ACTION	DATE

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References		
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME: Unknown		JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER: Unknown
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