

POLICY

Queen Anne's County Public Schools

POLICY TITLE: Graduation Exercises	
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: June 01, 2011	
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY: Instruction Amendment:	

I. 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.

II. Policy:

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.

III. 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 the student pursuing a high school certificate, graduation marks the successful completion of 4 years of approved study beyond the 8th grade.

IV. 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 issued 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.

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

V. Implementation:

1. The Board of Education will establish each school year the date of the graduation exercises for the two high schools.
2. The Superintendent is responsible for drafting procedural guidelines for the implementation of this policy.

VI. Evaluation:

The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education a review of this policy in August 2015. The focus of this review will be the effectiveness of the elements of this policy in assisting the Board in fulfilling its mission.