

# **POLICY IKFB**

## **Board of Education Las Cruces Public Schools**

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**Related Entries:** IKFB-R, IKF, IKF-R

**Responsible Office:** Associate Superintendent-of Curriculum & Instruction

### **Graduation Ceremonies/Commencement**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of Policy IKFB is to establish guidelines for determining student eligibility to participate in graduation exercises.

#### **II. BACKGROUND**

The LCPS Board of Education believes in recognizing the achievement of students who have successfully completed the requirements for a high school diploma or a certificate of completion. The Board expects that commencement ceremonies shall be conducted with appropriate decorum.

#### **III. POSITION**

- A. High School graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have earned a diploma by successfully completing the required course of study, satisfying district and state standards and passing required assessments.
- B. High school graduation ceremonies shall also recognize students who have earned a certificate of completion (a minimum of 29 credits for students graduating in 2019 and a minimum of 24 credits for students entering ninth grade in August of 2019).
- C. The Superintendent, through regulation, shall develop and implement graduation credit reduction plan for the Class of 2022, Class of 2021, and the Class of 2020.
- D. Students deemed ineligible to participate in commencement by the school principal, whether due to non-completion of course requirements or for other reasons including, but not limited to, violation of district or school policies or regulations, shall be notified of their ineligibility prior to the day of commencement.
- E. The Superintendent will ensure that public commencement ceremonies are conducted for each high school and the event dates are included on the district calendar(s). Non-traditional ceremonies (summer graduation) may be scheduled at the discretion of the Superintendent.

- F. The graduation ceremony is considered a school function and, as such, shall be under the supervision of the school principal, who is responsible for its planning and implementation.
- G. The program for graduation exercises shall be secular in nature and neutral with respect to religious expressions by students. The school district shall neither compel nor censor student prayer at graduation. There will be no involvement of the Board of Education or school staff in the planning, preparation, or delivery of such prayer.
- H. All speeches delivered during graduation ceremonies shall be reviewed and approved in advance by the principal or his/her designee.
- I. Any student participating in a graduation ceremony shall comply with district policies and regulations pertaining to student conduct.
- J. The Superintendent of Schools shall promulgate a regulation for the enforcement of this policy.

#### IV. REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.



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*Board of Education, President*

1/22/19

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*Date Approved*

**History:** New Policy, 1.15.13; revised 04.1.14, Revised 12.03.18

**Legal Reference:** 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978