

Category: 6000 INSTRUCTION	Policy Number: 6125
Policy Title: Graduation Ceremony	Effective Date February 18, 2009

The School District will sponsor commencement or graduation exercises for students who have met the graduation requirements set forth by this school district and the State of Idaho for completion of a high school program and the awarding of a diploma. Management of the ceremonies will be the responsibility of the high school principal.

Participation

Students must complete all graduation requirements prior to the graduation ceremony in order to actively participate in the ceremony. The superintendent or principal may waive this requirement in extenuating circumstances. Foreign exchange students in their senior year may participate in the graduation ceremony if they are eligible for a Snake River High School diploma, but they will not be eligible for the High Honors, Salutatorian or Valedictorian awards. Student attendance at the graduation ceremony is voluntary. A student may be denied participation in graduation ceremonies. Such exclusion shall be regarded as a school suspension. In such instances, the diploma will be awarded after the official ceremony has been held.

Commencement is a formal occasion. It is not required, and therefore, anyone who does not wish to conform to the following standards should not attend.

Awards and Honors:

Students will be recognized at the graduation ceremony for achieving academic excellence. Grade point averages are calculated for awards after the second trimester of the senior year. The following awards will be given to students who fulfill the state and district graduation requirements:

- Honors - For students with a GPA of 3.5 or better.
- High Honors - For students with a GPA of 3.75 or better and who meet the High Honors qualifications listed in the High School Registration Guide.
- Salutatorian - For the student(s) that ranks second and who meets the High Honors qualifications listed in the High School Registration Guide.
- Valedictorian - For the student(s) that ranks first and who meets the High Honors qualifications listed in the High School Registration Guide.

Speakers

Valedictorian speakers at graduation will be determined by the highest ACT score. The number of Valedictorian speakers will not exceed three unless there is a tie. If there is only one or two Valedictorian(s) then the Salutatorian(s) with the highest ACT score(s) will also speak.

Those who will participate on the program will be seated in the front. Other valedictorians and salutatorians will be seated on the front row of the graduating class. Student speakers may deliver a personal address of any nature so long as it is appropriate for the circumstances and not disruptive to the ceremony.

The following statement will be printed on the graduation program:

The Board of Trustees of School District No. 52 neither promotes nor endorses any statements made by any person involved in the graduation ceremony. Any communication by participants in this graduation ceremony is the private expression of the individual and is not intended to reflect the opinions or beliefs of the District, the Board of Trustees, administration or other students.

Baccalaureate

The Snake River Board of Trustees or personnel employed by the Snake River District shall not sponsor Baccalaureate programs.

Reference: Policy 6120, "Early Graduation"
Policy 6127, "Graduation Requirements"