

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: IID

Responsible Office: DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION AND SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

A. PURPOSE

To provide procedures for determining participation in graduation activities.

B. BACKGROUND

Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) allows for student participation in graduation activities, provided that students are in compliance with Maryland laws and regulations, Board policies, administrative regulations, and the *AACPS Code of Student Conduct* by that date.

C. DEFINITION

1. ***Graduation Activities*** – graduation activities include proms, prom breakfasts, senior awards ceremonies, athletic awards ceremonies, and graduation ceremonies.

D. PROCEDURES

1. Principals shall send the parents/guardians of all seniors a schedule of school-sponsored graduation activities. In the month of April, principals shall send a reminder of the school-sponsored graduation activities.
2. Graduation ceremonies shall be held no earlier than 2 days following the last day of school for seniors, except when not administratively or logistically possible, and provided they do not conflict with religious observances or a scheduled Board of Education of Anne Arundel County meeting.
3. Students may only participate in the graduation ceremony at their school of current enrollment.
4. Stoles, honor cords, and medals bestowed by AACPS or the State of Maryland in affiliation with an approved AACPS academic program, extracurricular or cocurricular activity, or athletic competition or a branch of the United States Armed

Forces may be worn during graduation ceremonies. Stoles, honor cords, and medals bestowed by outside organizations may be worn at senior and athletic awards ceremonies, but may not be worn at graduation ceremonies.

5. Students shall wear the cap and gown designated by AACPS for graduation ceremonies. Student caps and gowns may not be decorated with items other than stoles, honor cords, and medals bestowed by AACPS, the State of Maryland, or a branch of the United States Armed Forces.
6. Maryland High School Diplomas, Maryland High School Certificates, and citations shall be awarded at graduation ceremonies only to those students who have met all State and local requirements by the ceremony date.
7. Students who earned out of state diplomas, but are enrolled in AACPS at the time of their former school's graduation ceremony, may participate in their current AACPS school's graduation activities and receive their former school system's diploma if approved by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
8. Diplomas earned by students who are denied participation in graduation ceremonies shall be available upon request in the office of the appropriate school principal on the first workday following graduation ceremonies.

Regulation History: Issued 12/21/16; Revised 03/07/23; 11/04/25

Note Previous Regulation History: Issued 07/11/07

Legal References: Section 7-205 of the Education Article, Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.03.02