

STUDENT INSTRUCTION

Participation in Commencement Exercises

A student’s right to participate in the Helena Public Schools commencement exercise is an honor. Participation in the commencement ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all state and local requirements. The principal may allow participation in the ceremony due to extenuating circumstances in cases where the student will complete their requirements during the summer semester following their senior year.

The Helena Public Schools will permit students to honor their American Indian heritage through the display of culturally significant tribal regalia at commencement ceremonies.

Prohibited items that may not be worn or incorporated into the graduation ceremony include but are not limited to; items that promote drug use, weapon use, threats of violence, sexual harassment, bullying or other intimidation, or violates a district policy, state or federal law.

The school administration will review student presentations and specific content and will advise participants about appropriate language for the audience and occasion.

Cross Reference:

Legal Reference:	Art. II, Sec. 5	Montana Constitution – Freedom of religion
	Art. X, Sec. 1(2)	Montana Constitution – Educational Goals and Duties
	Art. X, Sec. 7	Montana Constitution – Nondiscrimination in education
	§ 20-5-201(3), MCA	Duties and Sanctions
	§ 20-7-112, MCA	Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted

Policy History:

Adopted on: 5.19.2019

Revised on: