

## **West Bonner County School District**

### **INSTRUCTION**

#### **2720A**

#### Participation in Commencement Exercises

##### Statement of Policy

A student's right to participate in the commencement exercises of the School District's graduating class is a privilege. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all of the state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diploma at that time.

##### Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

Policy applies to graduating Class of 2015 and beyond. It is the policy of this district that Class Valedictorians and the Senior Class President are invited to address the other participants and audience at the commencement ceremony. If there is only one Valedictorian, the Salutatorian will also be invited to speak.

1. Valedictorians and Salutatorians are selected after the seventh semester of high school on the basis of their grade point average (GPA) through 7 (seven) semesters. The GPA is calculated on weighted 5.0 scale for Dual Credit courses, and a 4.5 scale for Honors courses. Regular courses are calculated on a 4.0 scale; all calculations are carried out to one hundredths placement. There may be co-valedictorians and/or co-salutatorians if two or more students have identical GPA's. To be eligible for either Valedictorian or Salutatorian, students must have completed 30 of their 46 credits while attending Priest River Lamanna High School, enrolled in 6 of the 8 semesters, maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.8 or higher and be eligible for an Honors Diploma. Students must also have shown evidence of good citizenship as determined by the principal. Students graduating in 2016 will need 18 Honors Courses. Students graduating thereafter will need 16 credits from approved Honors Courses.
2. All Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses shall be considered Honors Courses. The high school will publish any revisions to courses that meet this definition on a yearly basis.
3. Graduation 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 school principal or senior class advisor may establish time periods to limit the length of the student's presentation. The following statement will be printed on the graduation program for each school district.

“The Board of Trustees for School District Number 83 neither promotes nor endorses any statements made by any person involved in the graduation ceremony. Any communication by

graduation ceremony participants is the private expression of the individual and not intended to represent or reflect the opinions or beliefs of the District, the Board of Trustees, administration, or other students.”

Legal Reference:

United States Constitution-1 <sup>st</sup> Amendment	
Art. 9, Sec. 6, Idaho Constitution – Religious Test and Teaching in School	
	Prohibited
I.C. § 33-1603	Sectarian Instruction Forbidden
I.C. § 33-512	Governance of Schools
I.C. § 67-5909	Acts Prohibited

Policy History:

Adopted on: March 14, 2007

Revised on: May 16, 2012

Revised on: October 15, 2014