

TITLE: ~~GRADUATION AND COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND AWARDS-~~  
**SECONDARY SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

Date Authorized: 15 May 1998  
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## COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EQUITY

The Board recognizes its responsibility to ensure that the development of procedures and the associated work promotes and protects Indigenous rights, human rights, and equity. The Board will strive to address and eliminate discrimination and structural and systemic barriers for students, staff, and community.

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### 1.0 RATIONALE

To establish guidelines for commencement ceremonies ~~and awards~~ in **secondary** schools.

### 2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Please refer to Appendix A for a list of definitions of terms used in this policy.

### 3.0 POLICY

3.1 The Board supports annual formal ~~graduation or commencement~~ **ceremonies exercises** in each secondary school.

3.2 **Commencement ceremonies shall be organized to present the educational milestones and achievements of** ~~for~~ all students **from a class** who have satisfied the conditions to graduate as prescribed by the Ministry of Education **and/or are moving on from secondary school education.**

### 4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

4.1 The principal of each secondary school shall be responsible for arranging the ~~graduation or commencement~~ **ceremonies exercises**.

~~4.2 No cash awards shall be given from Board funds.~~

- 4.3 ~~The cost of awards to be presented to secondary students who attain an average of 90 per cent or over shall be borne by the Board.~~
- 4.4 **At the discretion of the principal and in consultation with the donor(s), achievements may be presented at commencement ceremonies** ~~Trophies, medals, and other prizes for presentation graduation exercises shall be left to the discretion of the principal, in consultation with the donor or donors, as appropriate.~~
- 4.5 The Board **recognizes that elementary schools may organize school-leaving ceremonies outside of the scope of this policy** ~~recommends that celebrations to mark promotion from elementary to secondary school be age appropriate.~~
- 4.6 The Director of Education is authorized to issue such procedures as may be necessary to implement this policy.

## 5.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A: Policy Definitions

## 6.0 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

*Ontario Regulation 435/00 and 436/00, 2000*

Board [Procedure PR.527.SCO: Secondary School Commencement Ceremonies](#)

## APPENDIX A: POLICY DEFINITIONS

In this policy,

**Board** means the Board of Trustees.

**Commencement ceremony** means a celebration of student achievement that includes all students, including those who have been, and are currently, underserved by the education system.

**District** means the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board.