

XIX. Graduation Ceremonies

A. If students fulfill graduation requirements by the end of the last term of their senior year, they may participate in graduation ceremonies. Each student will be awarded a diploma after satisfactorily completing local and state requirements. Upon request, each graduating student will receive a final transcript. Each student will be notified of this opportunity at least one (1) month prior to the close of the school term, provided the following conditions exist:

1. The student is on track to graduate based on credit totals at the beginning of the fourth (4th) quarter of his/her senior year;
2. The student has achieved at least twenty-two (22) credits by the end of his/her senior year;
3. The student has made arrangements to earn the credit before the beginning of the next school year;
4. The student and his/her parent or adult advocate have met with the principal and offered an explanation of circumstances that have prevented the student from meeting all requirements by the end of the current school year. After consideration of the explanation, it will be left to the principal's discretion as to whether or not the student will be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremonies; and
5. The student qualifies and has completed the requirements for the waiver from VPS graduation requirements to Washington state minimum requirements.

B. Graduation ceremonies will be conducted in the following manner:

1. Each participating student must participate in the graduation ceremony rehearsal. Each student who participates will purchase or rent the proper cap and gown as designated by the school administration and the class advisor and officers;
2. Caps and gowns will be worn in the proper manner, as designated by the school administration and class advisor;
3. Students may wear attire that is:
 - a. Recognized as a symbol of a specific culture's recognition of significant achievement; or
 - b. Required as religious dress.
4. Students who participate will use good taste in their choice of accessories for their attire;

5. Each student who participates will cooperate with the class advisor and participate in all parts of the graduation ceremonies;
6. Each participating student must participate in the commencement ceremony rehearsal unless excused by the principal. Each student who participates will purchase or rent the proper cap and gown as designated by the school administration and the class advisor and student officers;
7. Caps and gowns will be worn in the proper manner, as designated by the school administration and class advisor;
8. Students who participate will be expected to use good taste in their choice of accessories. Accessories that draw attention away from the purpose of the ceremony or are disruptive will not be permitted;
9. Students may wear attire that is (a) recognized as a symbol of a specific culture's recognition of significant achievement, or (b) required as religious dress;
10. Each student who participates will be expected to cooperate with the commencement coordinator and to participate in all parts of the commencement ceremonies;
11. In the event of a violation of school rules, a student is entitled to due process as set forth in district Policy and Procedure 3241, Student Discipline;
12. Failure to comply with the above requirements or violation of any school rules may forfeit a student's privilege of participation in the commencement ceremonies;
13. In the event a member of the graduating class dies prior to the start of their senior year or during their twelfth (12th) grade year, the high school principal, at the request of the parent of the deceased student, may convene a meeting to review the appropriate recognition at the commencement ceremony. The high school principal will review and decide, in consultation with the parent, the appropriate course of action based on the options contained in the district's graduation protocols.