

Instruction Sheet – AASB POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL UPDATE SERVICE

2015-2016 UPDATE INSTRUCTION SHEET

SECOND READING March 7, 2017

FIRST READING February 14, 2017

NOTE: This packet includes only those policy manual pages that have been revised, deleted or newly established. Full text pages are included and are to be substituted as indicated below.

For ease of School Boards, AASB has identified those portions of the Update that require formal Board action in order to implement the policy changes. This is indicated by a “Yes” or “No.” A “No” is used if changes have been made only to an AP or an Exhibit, or if policy changes are limited to explanatory notes, legal reference or cross-reference updates, or minor grammatical or stylistic changes that have not changed the policy meaning.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THE 2015-16 UPDATE: Several policies included in this update are based on changes to federal and state law that are not effective until the 2017-2018 school year. These policies are identified below with the notation “Delayed Implementation Note.” Accordingly, districts need not adopt these policy revisions until a later date, if delayed adoption is desired. If the policy is adopted prior to the effective date of the law, districts will need to be in compliance with the policy requirements.

Replace/Add	Formal Adoption Required	Description
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ARTICLE 5, Series 5000 - Students

BP 5127	Yes	GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES The second introductory note and policy language were updated to reflect the repeal of portions of AS 14.03.075 that required secondary students to take a college and career readiness assessment before being issued a diploma. Language has also been added to the policy reflecting graduation participation for those students earning a certificate of completion or a certificate of attendance.
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GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES

BP 5127

Note: The following policy suggests various options which may be modified to reflect district practice except that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that graduation ceremonies may not include school-sponsored prayers.

Note: Effective June 30, 2016, the requirement in AS 14.03.075 that a secondary student take a college and career readiness assessment before being issued a diploma is repealed.

High school graduation ceremonies shall be held to recognize those students who have successfully completed the district graduation requirements and earned the right to receive a diploma or a certificate of completion. Students earning a certificate of attendance may also participate in graduation ceremonies.

(cf. 6146.1 - *High School Graduation Requirements*)

(cf. 6146.5 – *Differential Requirements for Individuals with Exceptional Needs*)

Note: The following optional paragraph may be used to deny participation in graduation activities. School site rules should indicate what privileges may be denied for what reasons, and the means whereby students may appeal these decisions.

In accordance with school-site rules, the principal may deny a student the privilege of participating in graduation or promotion activities because of misconduct.

(cf. 5144 - *Discipline*)

School-sponsored invocations and/or benedictions shall not be included in graduation ceremonies. Other students may participate in the graduation ceremony at the Principal's discretion.

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.075 *College and Career readiness assessment; retroactive issuance of diploma*

14.03.090 *Sectarian or denominational doctrines prohibited*

UNITED STATES CODE

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 9524, as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, P.L. 107-110

Santa Fe Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Doe, 530 U.S. 290 (2000)

Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992)

Revised 3/2016