

501.12AP – Commencement Ceremonies

Purpose

Commencement ceremonies are an important event in the life of our students. Schools are encouraged to prepare a ceremony that incorporate the traditions of their respective schools. Ceremonies should also ensure that they reflect the District and its goals in a manner that positively promotes public education to our community in a consistent manner and promotes equity, diversity, inclusion and justice.

Procedure

Commencement ceremonies are the responsibility of the school but shall be guided by the following requirements:

Protocols and Dignitaries

1. Schools shall incorporate local indigenous culture in the ceremony including but not limited to a land acknowledgement and may include greetings from local First Nation representatives;
2. Schools shall invite District dignitaries to attend including their assigned school trustee and Superintendent or delegate;
3. The assigned school trustee shall be invited to speak and represent the District on the stage as appropriate. The Superintendent or delegate may be invited to speak at the discretion of the school;
4. During the ceremony the school may recognize other dignitaries including local MLAs and city or town political representation. However, speaking roles shall be limited to District invitees;
5. Letters of congratulation from city or town representatives, MLAs or MPs shall not be handed out at graduation ceremonies.

Inclusive Practices

1. Commencement ceremonies shall be focused on the presentation of completion certificates;
2. With the exception of the Governor General's Award and scholarships and awards of a unique and significant nature, scholarships and awards shall only be awarded at a separate event.

This AP does not apply to the Indigenous Graduation ceremony.

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Amended: