

## GRADUATION EXERCISES

Graduation exercises for the public school system shall be held at the end of each second semester *only*, and mid-term graduates may elect to receive their diplomas at mid-term and sign a statement renouncing participation in all graduation honors at the end of the school year; or they may elect to participate in all graduation honors and receive their diplomas at the end of the school session. Unless excused by the principal, a candidate must participate in graduation practice conducted by the school to be eligible for participation in the formal graduation ceremony.

Students participating in formal graduation exercises from a high school in the parish are required to wear caps and gowns in order to standardize graduation clothes. In addition, each student participating in formal graduation exercises shall have met **all** requirements for receipt of a regular diploma as set forth by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), as outlined in Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators*. Additionally, official notification in writing of the grade obtained in a correspondence course must be received by the school no later than the last day for attendance by senior students to be eligible to participate in the formal graduation ceremony, unless such time period for receipt of the grade is extended by the principal.

All high school graduating seniors shall receive their original diplomas in the presence of parents and visitors in their graduation ceremonies at the time of graduation.

Foreign exchange students enrolled in Livingston Parish schools are not eligible to participate in formal graduation exercises.

### CONNECTIONS PATHWAYS (LOUISIANA EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA OR STATE APPROVED SKILLS CERTIFICATE) STUDENTS

- 1) A Connections student may participate in his/her home-based school's graduation ceremony **ONLY** if he/she has been enrolled in the parish approved Connections Program at least two (2) semesters **AND** completed the following criteria by the last day of attendance required by regular senior students:
  - A) Successfully completed and obtained their Louisiana Equivalency Diploma (HiSet)

**AND**

  - B) Obtained an Industry-Based Certification in a state-approved Skills Certificate Program

**OR**

Reached an Industry-Based Certification exit point as determined by a

state-approved Skills Certificate Program

**NOTE:** Exception to the above Louisiana Equivalency Diploma (HiSet) requirement: Special Education Students who are unsuccessful in earning a Louisiana Equivalency Diploma (HiSet) may participate in their home-based school's graduation if they meet the following criteria:

- A) The student has been evaluated and is exceptional in accordance with the Pupil Appraisal handbook
- B) The student has a current IEP indicating he/she is enrolled in the Connections Program
- C) The student has completed a minimum of twelve (12) years of school (not including Early Childhood Special Education Classes) or has reached his/her Twenty-second (22nd) birthday.
- D) The student has met attendance requirements as set forth in Bulletin 741.
- E) The student has completed 80% of his/her annual goals as set forth on the IEP.
- F) The program has been provided by certified personnel.
- G) The student has successfully completed an Industry-Based Certification or state-approved Skill Certification and has participated in the Connections Program a minimum of two (2) semesters.

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. '17:2115; Board minutes, 1-28-73, 6-77, 1-92, 3-95, 9-96, 7-24-03, 8-7-14.