

## EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Board Policy 6146.5

In order to recognize successful completion of elementary/middle school education, the Governing Board shall confer diplomas of graduation from elementary/middle school and from special day classes. The Board shall certify to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that their policy provides students with the skills necessary to pursue the required high school curriculum. As directed by the board certification for this policy shall be submitted at the same time as apportionment reports.

Diplomas shall be awarded only to students who have completed the course of study prescribed by law and the district. In addition, students shall meet district requirements for promotion based on grades, assessments or other indicators as specified in Board policy and administrative regulation.

In order to receive a diploma from College School District, an eighth grade student must meet the following requirements upon completion of the Eighth Grade:

1. Academic – Student shall have a cumulative (grades 7 & 8) 2.0 grade point average in his/her core academic subjects. (Math, Science, Social Science, Language Arts and Physical Education)
2. Citizenship – cumulative maintenance of satisfactory (“S”) in “Effort” and “Citizenship” areas.

**Students not meeting these requirements may become candidates for retention.**

Students in the eighth grade look forward to participating in the graduation ceremony. It is possible for a student to progress to the high school and not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. In October, the end of the first trimester, and the end of the second trimester, the diploma requirements shall be sent home to the parents.

The criteria for participation in the ceremony is as follows:

1. Meet the requirements enumerated in 1 and 2 above.
2. Have received less than 30 academic/behavioral demerits during his/her eighth grade year.
3. Have received no failing grade (“F”) in the third trimester of a core academic class. Students in danger of receiving D or F grades during the third trimester shall be referred to an Academic Probation Committee composed of the Principal, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.
4. Have not received an Effort and/or Citizenship cumulative grade of less than “S”.

It shall be the responsibility of the eighth **grade teachers to notify the school principal in writing** of any student who is in danger of, or actually failing to meet the requirements for a diploma or participation in graduation activities. It shall be the responsibility of **the Principal to notify parents by certified letter of the student’s non-grad status** and arrange for a parent conference. A written record of the conference shall be placed in the student’s confidential file.

Students officially identified as Special Education students or English Learners at the beginning or early intermediate level may have differential graduation and competency standards applied.

### VALEDICTORIAN

The valedictorian for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation is the student with the highest GPA, calculated to 0.01 place, for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade years. The student must have attended Santa Ynez School for both the seventh and eighth grade years. In the case of a tie, all students with the same highest GPA shall share the title of Valedictorian. If the second place student(s) is within 0.05 grade points of the Valedictorian, then the second place student(s) shall be recognized as the Salutatorian. If the difference between the first and second place students’ GPA is greater than 0.05 then no Salutatorian shall be honored. The GPA shall be calculated on a 4-point scale for the core academic subjects only. (Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Science). PE and elective grades shall not be considered.