Bainville K-12 Schools **R**

INSTRUCTION 2333

Participation in Commencement Exercises

Statement of Policy

A student's right to participate in a commencement exercise of the graduating class at Bainville High School is an honor. As such, participation in this ceremony is reserved for those members of the graduating class who have completed all state and local requirements for graduation before the date of the ceremony. Students who complete their requirements after the date of commencement exercises will receive their diplomas at that time.

Organization and Content of Commencement Exercises

The Superintendent may invite graduating students to participate in high school graduation exercises according to academic class standing or class officer status. Any student who, because of academic class standing, is requested to participate may choose to decline the invitation.

The Superintendent **may** censor any presentation or require any specific content but may advise participants about appropriate language for the audience and occasion. Students selected to participate may choose to deliver an address, poem, reading, song, musical presentation, prayer, or any other pronouncement of their choosing.

The printed program for a commencement exercise will include the following paragraphs:

> *Any presentation by participants of graduation exercises is the private expression of an individual participant and does not necessarily reflect any official position of the District, its Board, administration, or employees, nor does it necessarily indicate the views of any other graduates.*
>
> *The Board recognizes that at graduation time and throughout the course of the educational process, there will be instances when religious values, religious practices, and religious persons will have some interaction with the public schools and students. The Board, while not endorsing any religion, recognizes the rights of individuals to have the freedom to express their individual political, social, or religious views.*

Legal Reference:	Art. II, Sec. 5, Montana Constitution - Freedom of religion	
	Art. X, Sec. 7, Montana Constitution - Nondiscrimination in education	
	§ 20-1-308, MCA	Religious instruction released time program
	§ 20-5-201(3), MCA	Duties and sanctions
	§ 20-7-112, MCA	Sectarian publications prohibited and prayer permitted

Policy History:
Adopted on:
Reviewed on: 12/09/08
Revised on: Winter 2009; 1/14/09