

GRADUATION CEREMONY POLICY

The Marietta Board of Education recognizes that graduation ceremonies are important events for our students, patrons, guests, and community. Students who have not met state mandates or local school district graduation requirements may not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. In order to participate in the graduation ceremony a student must be in good standing. Students who have not conformed with student discipline policies, those that have been charged, are under investigation, or have been convicted of a crime, and those that have unpaid fines or fees to the school district are not in good standing. To ensure that graduation ceremonies are enjoyable for all participants and spectators, the board enacts the following policies:

1. A student shall be a graduate of this school district and entitled to a High School Diploma whenever that student has successfully completed the minimum number of credits established by the district for graduation, demonstrates mastery of the state academic content standards as required by state law, and completes graduation exercises in accordance with this policy.
2. Students are considered as students of this district until graduation ceremonies have been completed.
3. Students participating in graduation ceremonies will be required to abide by the school's discipline code as outlined in the Student Handbook. In addition, students shall not engage in the following conduct during graduation exercises:
 - A. Throwing caps or other objects in the air (Caps may be thrown as a group at designated time/place after the graduation ceremony with approval of high school administration & senior sponsor); or,
 - B. Engaging in any disruptive activity that substantially interferes with the graduation process or the rights of other individuals.
 - C. Regalia. Students who can verify their enrollment in a tribe (CDIB card) will be allowed to wear an eagle feather and have beading around the edge of the mortar board. Students who do not qualify for a CDIB card, but do qualify under federal law will not be allowed to wear a feather, but will be allowed to have beading on the mortar board. The beading shall be attached to the mortar board and shall not exceed ½ inch over or ½ inch under the edge of the mortar board. There will be no alterations to the robe and only school issued cords and sashes may be utilized in the graduation ceremony. The flat portion of the graduation cap/mortar board may only be decorated in a positive, community appropriate manner that highlights any formal career plans of the graduate. For example, college logo, military logo, employer logo, etc. Approval of decoration will be at the discretion of the high school principal. Approved cap decoration should lay flat on the board. No cap decoration should hang over the side of the board, be raised above the board or be visible from the front, back or sides. Cap decoration can only be visible from above or an aerial view.
4. The administration may impose discipline on any student who commits any act referred to in (3) above. It is recommended the administration take necessary steps to impose discipline as soon as is convenient after completion of graduation exercises. If a student violates (3) above prior to the ceremony, the student may not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and will be asked to leave the premises.