

GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

Background

The District encourages schools to celebrate graduation through formal graduation and school leaving ceremonies.

The District supports in principle parent initiatives which encourage “Dry Grad” activities.

The District does not approve of:

- Any graduation related activities which involve students consuming alcohol and using any controlled substances or drugs, the use or possession of which is prohibited by law;
- The use of District facilities to plan or organize alcohol related activities;
- The use of the District’s name or name of any school to be associated with the organization of a graduation or fundraising event that involves alcohol related activities.

Definitions

Alcohol includes wine, beer, distilled spirits and any liquid containing ethyl alcohol, whether or not intended as a beverage;

Dry grad activities are private celebrations, which usually occur between midnight and 7:00 a.m., and are organized by parents or members of the community which are alcohol and drug free.

Procedures

1. Although the District does not permit school staff to sponsor or supervise dry grad activities, principals will support parents who are organizing dry grad activities in the following ways:
 - 1.1. Clearly indicate to students that only alcohol and drug free grad celebrations can be associated with the school;
 - 1.2. Enable students and parents to hold meetings in the school for the purpose of organizing dry grad activities or fund raising for these activities;
 - 1.3. Assist with the distribution of information to all students and parents about dry grad activities and fund raising for these activities;
 - 1.4. Provide phone lists to be used by organizers at the school for the purpose of contacting parents of Grade 12 students, if the school has obtained written consent from individual parents to release their contact information to dry grad event organizers, who understand that this information is to be treated in a confidential manner;

- 1.5. Prohibit any group of students or parents at the school from fundraising, organizing, or distributing information about graduation events at which alcohol or drugs are involved.
2. As the District's insurance coverage does not normally extend to dry grad activities, liability for such activities is assumed by the organizers. Organizers of dry grad activities may purchase private insurance and hire security staff.
3. Principals will not:
 - 3.1. Supervise dry grad activities nor permit other school staff to do supervision as that will be the responsibility of parents and volunteers;
 - 3.2. Participate nor permit other school staff to participate in fundraising for dry grad activities.

Reference: Section 17, 20, 22, 65, 85 School Act
School Regulation 265/89

Approved: August 15, 2021
Revised: