

Southern Regional High School
Policy on Graduation Ceremony

1. The New Jersey Commissioner of Education has ruled that participation of senior students in a graduation ceremony is a privilege granted by the Board of Education.
2. Seniors shall not be required to take part in the graduation ceremony. Seniors who qualify will receive a diploma regardless of whether or not they participate. Students who do not participate in the graduation ceremony may pick up their diplomas in the high school office on the next day following graduation.
3. **Students required to attend summer school will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.** Upon successful completion of summer school, diplomas will be issued.
4. Seniors who wish to participate in the graduation ceremony must fulfill the following requirements:
 - a) Obtain the satisfactory grades, earn sufficient credits, and meet state requirements.
 - b) All fines owed and financial obligations due must be met prior to the announced senior deadline. No special extensions will be granted.
 - c) Seniors must wear only the prescribed cap and gown plus:

For Men: 1. Slacks or dress trousers (preferably dark)
 2. Socks and dress shoes (**no sneakers, flip-flops, sandals, shorts**)
 3. Dress shirt with collar and tie

For Women: 1. Dress or skirt and blouse (preferably no pants)
 2. Dress shoes (**no spiked heels or flip-flops for safety's sake**)

Students not complying with the above may not be permitted to participate in the Commencement Ceremony.

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- d) Seniors must attend ALL scheduled rehearsals in order to participate. Students must be there at the scheduled time. Normally, there shall be no excuse for missing or being late. However, the principal may permit a senior to miss only under extenuating circumstances (such as death in family). The principal may also request a doctor's note if illness is the reason for the absence.

Under no circumstances will students be permitted to miss rehearsal for reasons such as employment, interviews, "personal reasons," etc.

Being late to or missing a rehearsal will jeopardize a student's privilege to participate.

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- e) Conduct, individually and collectively, must be beyond reproach during all rehearsals, walking into the stadium the night of graduation, and during the ceremony. If at any time the senior's conduct is unacceptable to the faculty or the supervisor/administrative staff responsible for the graduation ceremony, he/she will be immediately dropped from further participation. The full cooperation of all members of the graduating class is necessary if we are to conduct a ceremony that will bring honor to the graduates, their families, and the school.
No cell phones will be permitted.
 - f) The diplomas of students who are not permitted to participate in graduation ceremony by virtue of their misconduct, unexcused absence, lateness to rehearsals, or whose conduct at, or during the ceremony is unacceptable, may be obtained in the high school office on the next day following graduation.
 - g) Since graduation is a privilege granted by the Board of Education, a student may be excluded from participation in the graduation ceremony for serious breach of conduct during any school activity. Any such exclusion must be recommended by the principal and the superintendent, and approved by the Board of Education.
5. A hearing will be conducted by the principal before a decision is made to exclude any senior from participation in the graduation ceremony.
6. Each senior should read over these policies and all rules concerning graduation. A calendar of events and rehearsals was mailed home.