

**GRADUATION EXERCISES**

- I. The Talbot County Board of Education believes that completion of the requirements for a diploma from the public schools is an achievement that improves the community, as well as the individual; therefore, the Board wishes to recognize that achievement in a publicly celebrated graduation exercise. Accordingly appropriate graduation programs will be planned by senior high schools on the date selected by the Board of Education.
  
- III. Students will be provided on opportunity to participate in the planning of graduation ceremonies. However, final plans such as outside speakers and when, where, and in what manner the graduation ceremonies will be held will be subject to the approval of the school administration and Board.
  
- III. A student must have completed all requirements to receive a state diploma or Certificate of Attendance at graduation exercises. Each high school will publish regulations relative to eligibility for participation in graduation ceremonies.
  
- IV. Foreign exchange students who have completed the graduation requirements will receive a diploma and be eligible to participate in commencement exercises. Other foreign exchange students will receive a county certificate and will be eligible to participate in graduation exercises.
  
- V. The graduating senior who receives the highest grade point average (calculate to .001) will be designated as the valedictorian of the graduating class. The graduating senior who receives the second highest grade point average (calculated to .001) will be designated as the salutatorian of the graduating class. The valedictorian will be asked to give an address to the graduating class at the graduation exercises. This address will be reviewed and approved by the high school administration and practiced by the valedictorian before the graduation exercises for her/his class. The salutatorian may be asked to open the graduation exercises with a brief address. This address will be reviewed and approved by the high school administration and practiced by the salutatorian before the graduation exercises for her/his class.

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VI. Students who have achieved academic excellence will be recognized according to the categories and criteria specified below:

		<u>Cumulative Average of:</u>
Highest Honors	3.8 or above	96% or above
High Honors	3.6 – 3.79	92.0 – 95.9%
Honors	3.25 – 3.59%	85.0 – 91.9    5

VII. Other awards may be given to recognize the following:

- \*Scholarships awarded to individual students
- \*Citizenship
- \*Athletics
- \*Individual scholar awards

VIII. High schools will differentiate between the end-of-year awards assembly and graduation exercises by holding an awards assembly for the presentation and honoring of student achievements, in addition to those awarded at the graduation exercises.

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