

**DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**  
**Catholic Schools Policies/Regulations**

**STUDENT PERSONNEL**

**Graduation Requirements and Ceremonies**

It shall be the policy of the Diocesan Catholic Schools Office, under the aegis of the Bishop, that the high schools of the Diocese establish and publish their graduation requirements. In addition to the courses mandated by the Iowa Department of Education, the schools shall require a minimum of one religion course for each semester a student attends school.

The local boards of education may determine whether students, who have fulfilled the requirements, may graduate prior to the spring of their senior year.

Graduating seniors may be dismissed up to five instructional days prior to the end of the regular school calendar if the seniors have met the graduation requirements. (281-IAC 12.1(7))

If the school calendar must be extended to makeup “snow days” the seniors who have met the graduation requirements may be excused from the extended calendar (281-IAC 279.10)

Graduation ceremonies for all Catholic schools should reflect the Catholic mission and identity of the schools.

Graduation ceremonies from elementary/middle school should be dignified and simple.

High school graduation ceremonies may be more elaborate than elementary/middle school graduation. The date of graduation should be set after consultation with both the Bishop and Superintendent of Schools as they are to be involved in the ceremonies.

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