



Code: IKFB-AR
Adopted: 4/27/21

Wearing Items of Cultural Significance in Graduation Exercises

Students eligible to participate in graduation exercises may wear items of cultural significance. Examples of items of cultural significance include, but are not limited to eagle feathers worn by students who identify as Native American, flower lei or maile lei worn by students who identify as Asain Pacific Islander, and stoles made of culturally significant fabric/cloths. Schools will adhere to the following protocol regarding items of cultural significance at graduation exercises:

1. All graduating students will be notified in an informational letter each school provides their students in preparation for graduation that they have the right to wear items of cultural significance during graduation exercises.
2. In determining whether to wear items of cultural significance during graduation exercises, students and families should consider cultural appreciation versus cultural appropriation. Cultural appreciation is the celebration of one's own culture or connecting cross-culturally while seeking to understand and learn. Cultural appropriation entails exploiting or taking an aspect of a culture that is not your own and using it for your own personal interest.
3. As a first step, students and/or parents or guardians who have any questions or concerns regarding items of cultural significance should connect directly with the assistant principal or dean who oversees 12th grade.
4. As a next step if students and parents or guardians have additional unanswered questions or concerns, they have the right to confer with the school principal, the district administration who work with high schools, and/or the district Equity, Access and Engagement Officer regarding items of cultural significance.