



**LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BULLETIN**

TITLE: Fifth-And-Sixth Grade Culmination For
End-Of-The-Year Activities

NUMBER: BUL-3812

ISSUER: Ronni Ephraim, Chief Instructional Officer
Instructional Services

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ROUTING

Local District Superintendents

Local District Administrators of
Instruction

Directors of School Services, Elementary
Administrators

Principals

5/6 Grade Teachers

PURPOSE: This revision replaces Bulletin M-16 issued on January 28, 2002. The content has been revised to reflect updated information.

ASSISTANCE: For further information, please call Lisa Gaboudian, Coordinator, Elementary Language Arts at (213) 241-6444.

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose for holding culmination or end-of-the-year activities is to give students and teachers an opportunity to summarize specific instructional objectives and to recognize the academic and non-academic achievement, leadership, and services of students. It also provides students the opportunity to demonstrate for others those performance skills which can be appreciated by an audience. Although it has long been recognized that well-presented elementary culmination programs have a positive effect on student and parent appreciation of the instructional program and teacher efforts, the decision to present a culmination program rests with the local school administrator in consultation with teachers and parents or school-community support groups.

II. GUIDELINES FOR CULMINATION ACTIVITIES

- A. Culmination or end-of-the-year activities are District-authorized and may be held during school hours when they conform to the following standards:
 - 1. The activity or performance represents student work which is the result of specific instructional goals or objectives; or
 - 2. A major class project, display or exhibit is used to present concepts learned during the school year; or
 - 3. A special recognition program is used to commend the academic and non-academic achievement, leadership, and services of students.

- B. Students and teachers should assume responsibility for the planning, preparation, and presentation of the program with cooperation from parents of the students, PTA, School Councils, and other school community groups.



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- C. All students who have successfully completed the highest grade level of the school should be included in that portion of the culmination program which permits them to display their leadership ability, knowledge, and skills in an appropriate, positive manner and should receive recognition or an award.
- D. To conserve instructional class time and to stay within the limits of the attention span of the audience, the culmination program should be no more than one hour in duration.
- E. The presentation of certain certificates may be a part of the culmination program or part of a separate awards assembly; however, the granting of diplomas or diploma-like certificates and the use of graduation-like exercises and dress are reserved specifically for 12th graders.
- F. Additional funding should not be necessary for a culmination activity. Necessary transportation for parents and students in integration programs may be ordered through the use of Form 78.201 following District guidelines.
- G. Any use of Student Body Funds for culmination activities must conform to the requirement and restrictions outlined in Policies Governing Elementary School Student Body Finance, publication number 464, Student Body Finance Section.
- H. Activities that are not essentially a direct outgrowth of classroom learning or of school goals or objectives shall not be District-sponsored or District-funded. Such activities, which are social or recreational, may be sponsored by outside groups after school hours. Parents should be informed that such activities must be after school hours. Parents should be informed that outside groups will be responsible for the funding, safety and welfare of pupils, and general supervision of the activity, which will be neither school-sponsored nor endorsed.

III. SUGGESTED CULMINATION ACTIVITIES

- A. Classroom or auditorium programs
 - 1. Choral reading or speaking.
 - 2. Descriptive presentations by students of class projects such as maps, murals, science projects, *Open Court* units.
 - 3. A play or dramatic representation such as: timeline of famous American men and women in U.S. History, contributions of particular ethnic group in a field of study, or *OCR Investigation Findings*.
 - 4. Rhythms or round or square dances.
 - 5. Recognition of student achievement with leadership or service awards, attendance certificates, the Presidential Fitness Award, or similar awards.
 - 6. Recognition of the members of the culminating classes.
 - 7. Group vocal or instrumental musical presentations.
- B. Playground assemblies
 - 1. Recognition of members of the classes.
 - 2. Recognition of student achievement with academic and non-academic leadership, and service awards, attendance certificates, the Presidential Fitness Award, or similar awards.



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IV. SUGGESTED ORGANIZATION FOR SCHOOLS IN RECONFIGURATION

Although many of the elementary schools have reconfigured, there are some with 6th grade. Students in grade 5 who will be leaving elementary schools because of reconfiguration should also receive appropriate recognition for their efforts and accomplishments.

- A. It is recommended that separate culmination programs be planned for fifth-and sixth-grade levels.
- B. In instances where both fifth and sixth grade classes are small or where 5-6 combination classes exist, a combined culmination would be appropriate.