

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE**  
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NO: 4915

PAGE: 1 OF 2

CATEGORY: **Instruction, Miscellaneous**

EFFECTIVE: **12-10-71**

SUBJECT: **Baccalaureate Services**

REVISED: **7-14-2000**

**A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

- 1. To outline administrative procedures governing planning and conducting of baccalaureate services by senior high schools.
- 2. **Related Procedure:**  
Graduation from senior high schools ..... 4770

**B. LEGAL AND POLICY BASIS**

- 1. **Reference:** Board policy F-7600.

**C. GENERAL**

- 1. **Originating Office.** Suggestions or questions concerning this procedure should be directed to the Office of General Counsel.
- 2. **Definition**
  - a. **Baccalaureate service:** A nondenominational religious and inspirational service, with voluntary attendance, held in honor of graduating high school seniors.
  - b. **Invocation:** A prayer, benediction, blessing, or religious address given at the opening of a ceremony.
- 3. **Legal Status.** Baccalaureate services held on school grounds or sponsored by school authorities have been deemed to violate the federal and state constitutional provisions which guarantee separation of church and state.
- 4. **Sponsorship.** Local churches, religious groups, or other organizations may hold voluntary baccalaureate services for graduating seniors. Faculty or administration may not act to advise or help coordinate the services.
- 5. **Location.** Services may not be held in a school facility or on school grounds.
- 6. **Announcement.** If off-campus services are arranged by nonschool organizations, the time and place may be announced in a school bulletin, *providing* the announcement includes a statement that the baccalaureate services is not a school-sponsored activity.

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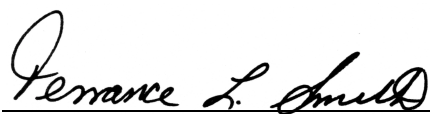
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**D. IMPLEMENTATION** (See C.)

**E. FORMS AND AUXILIARY REFERENCES**

**F. REPORTS AND RECORDS**

**G. APPROVED BY**



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Chief of Staff, Terrance L. Smith  
For the Superintendent of Public Education