

Posthumous Diploma Guidance

Purpose

The Louisiana Department of Education seeks to extend sympathy and compassion to the families of students who pass away near the completion of their high school education and to recognize the academic achievement of students who would have fulfilled the requirements for graduation.

Criteria

[House Resolution 256](#) of the 2023 Regular Legislative session provided for the development of policy relative to the issuance of posthumous high school diplomas to deceased high school students meeting certain criteria. Pursuant to [LAC 28:I.1501](#), A posthumous high school diploma may be awarded if a student, at the time of death, fits the below criteria:

- The student should be in good standing at the high school;
- The deceased student must not have been convicted of a felony prior to death; and
- At the time of death, the student should have been attending or enrolled at a high school in the school district in which the request is being made.

Procedure

A formal request for the awarding of the high school diploma or certificate should be initiated by the parent or legal guardian of the deceased student. Requests should be made by contacting the local school system during the school year the student's cohort is scheduled to graduate. The posthumous nature of the award will be indicated on the diploma. The posthumous diploma will be issued by the school or school system in which the student was enrolled.

A deceased student honored posthumously should be noted as such when the student's name is announced at commencement and in the commencement program. Local superintendents have discretion in choosing the manner of announcement and provision of the award to the family.

School systems may request posthumous diplomas during the annual diploma ordering process.