

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
OREGON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 220, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**SUSPENDING CERTAIN GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS  
DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, Section 10-16.7 of the Illinois *School Code* (105 ILCS 5/10-16.7) requires school boards to direct, through policy, the Superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of Oregon Community Unit School District No. 220, Ogle County, Illinois (“the Board”) has adopted Board Policy 6:300, *Graduation Requirements*, setting forth both State and local graduation requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board has adopted Board Policy 2:240, *Board Policy Development*, which authorizes the Board to adopt, revise, and temporarily suspend board policies; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, Illinois Governor Pritzker declared all counties in Illinois as disaster areas pursuant to Section 7 of the *Illinois Emergency Management Act* (20 ILCS 3305/7), which disaster declaration was renewed and reissued through May 29, 2020, and directed implementation of the State’s Emergency Operations Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, Governor Pritzker issued Executive Orders 2020-05, 2020-10, 2020-15, 2020-18, and 2020-33 ordering the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Illinois for educational purposes for the duration of the Disaster Proclamations, suspending in-person instruction, and providing flexibility in remote learning, and further suspended in-person learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 24, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2020-31, suspending certain Illinois *School Code* assessment and coursework requirements for 12th grade students (Class of 2020) in light of COVID-19, including the suspension of coursework required by Section 27-22(e) (105 ILCS 5/27-22(e)) for those 12th grade students who are unable to complete such coursework as a result of the suspension of in-person instruction, and the suspension of additional coursework and assessments for all 12th grade students, and further directing the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to file emergency rules to effectuate the intent of his Order; and

**WHEREAS**, ISBE implemented Executive Order 2020-31, issuing Emergency Rules on April 27, 2020, and Guidance entitled *Graduation Requirement Changes FAQ*, modifying certain graduation requirements and suspending other certain graduation requirements for the duration of the mandated suspension of in-person instruction, and for the duration of Disaster Proclamations, for students who are in 12th grade (Class of 2020), thus allowing local school boards the discretion to suspend such statutory and regulatory graduation requirements reflected in their policies; and

**WHEREAS**, school boards also retain the discretion to suspend local graduation requirements in their policies that exceed those required by State statute and rule; and

**WHEREAS**, through its Guidance, ISBE has strongly encouraged school districts to provide flexibility to students in the Class of 2020, to approach graduation decisions through an equity lens, and to consider the challenges and losses this class suffered as a result of the public health emergency.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of Oregon Community Unit School District No. 220, Ogle County, Illinois, as follows:

**Section 1:** The Board hereby determines that the completion of State and local graduation requirements as outlined by the Governor and ISBE and as set forth in Board Policy 6:300, *Graduation Requirements*, were subject to impact by the suspension of in-person learning, and that the interests of flexibility and equity warrant suspension of such requirements as outlined herein.

**Section 2:** The Board hereby suspends Board Policy 6:300 for 12th grade students (Class of 2020), and adopts the modified graduation requirements set forth in Gubernatorial Executive Order 2020-31 and ISBE Emergency Rules and Guidance to the maximum extent of their flexibility.

**Section 3:** The Board hereby directs the Superintendent to implement this Resolution and delegates to the Superintendent the authority to base determination of graduation eligibility for students in the Class of 2020 on the modified graduation requirements outlined in the Gubernatorial Executive Order 2020-31 and ISBE Emergency Rules and Guidance entitled *Graduation Requirement Changes FAQ*.

**Section 4:** The suspension of Board Policy 6:300 is for the 12th grade students in the Class of 2020 only, and Board Policy 6:300 remains in effect for students with subsequent graduation dates.

**Section 5:** Execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument. The Board intends that the Board President and Board Secretary together have the authority to bind the Board and District and will sign this Resolution after the Board adopts it, but any signature line in this Resolution not signed by the Board President or Board Secretary may be deemed through email communications as an intent to enter into this Resolution with the same force and effect as an original executed signed document pursuant to the Illinois *Electronic Commerce Security Act* (5 ILCS 175/1).

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

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Board President

Attest:

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Board Secretary