



**Central Okanagan
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

May 27, 2025

To Parents/Guardians of our Graduating Students:

RE: Safety of Your Child at Unsanctioned Graduation Activities

The safety of the youth in our community is of the utmost importance to us all. We share your wish that each graduate will have a safe and memorable celebration of this important milestone, so we urge you to discuss the risks associated with unsanctioned events with your children. Even if your child is in Grade 10 or 11, please be aware that they may consider attending unsanctioned graduation events.

The administrators, teachers, support staff, families, and community at our secondary schools work hard to organize a diverse range of graduation activities. On each of these occasions, School District personnel are on site to ensure student safety, as outlined in our School Board Policies and School Codes of Conduct. Another significant event for our graduates is Dry Grad, which is sponsored, hosted, and supervised by our hardworking grad parents.

Unfortunately, there are other unsanctioned grad events that we do not supervise or support. Unsanctioned events include grad kidnappings, bush parties, private home parties, and trips to other resort destinations organized by students. These have resulted in accidents, injuries, and many other serious outcomes over the years. Since these events are often intentionally far from supervision, they are also far from emergency services.

We share your concerns regarding student behaviour and safety at unsanctioned events and urge you to discuss both the risks and your own family plan for safety. Remind students that there are middle-of-the-night calls that are welcome, and middle-of-the-night calls no one wants to get.

Thank you for helping ensure a safe and memorable graduation season for all students by discussing unsanctioned events with your children.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kaardal
Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Central Okanagan Public Schools