

## **POLICY ON EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATIONS**

The Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Public Schools are committed to having the elementary schools within its school district operate for 180 days as required by the state and to ensuring that all elementary school students are scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours of structured learning time per school year as required by the Massachusetts Department of Education regulations. See M.G.L.c. 71, §§1, 4A; 603 C.M.R. 27.03(3) and 603 C.M.R. 27.04(1). Accordingly, consistent with these commitments, it is the policy of the Cambridge School Committee and Cambridge Public School Department that all eighth grade students be required to attend school for 180 days and be scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours of structured learning time per school. Consistent with this policy, eighth grade graduation exercises that are scheduled by an elementary school, in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools and the Office of the School Committee, must be scheduled no earlier than the 178<sup>th</sup> day of school and be scheduled in such a manner to ensure that eighth grade students return to school on the 179<sup>th</sup> and 180<sup>th</sup> days of their eighth grade year.

*Adopted: October 19, 2004*