

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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KCPS Announces Graduation Celebration Plans for Class of 2020 *In-person commencements to be scheduled for week of July 20, with virtual or drive-in events an option if needed*

Kansas City, April 30, 2020: The following message was shared today by Kansas City Public Schools with students and their parent/guardians:

Kansas City Public Schools has been in conversation with students, families and staff to ensure we honor, recognize and celebrate our Class of 2020 graduates. The overwhelming preference of our students and families includes a semblance of live, in-person graduations when it is safe to do so. We have taken this feedback to heart, as we know this time of celebration and accomplishment is an important milestone in our students' lives.

With this, we are working toward the Class of 2020 in Kansas City Public Schools being honored through live, in-person graduation ceremonies this summer.

We are scheduling high school commencement ceremonies the week of July 20, 2020. Each high school's leadership, along with district administrators, are finalizing graduation ceremony details. We will announce locations, dates and times once finalized.

Plans may adjust according to national, state and local guidelines throughout the pandemic. We will continue to adhere to health and state officials' recommendations as we navigate suggestions for events in July. This includes the possibility of limiting the number of guests, among other details. Those details will continue to be refined and we will share specifics when they are finalized.

Please know that the plan to host in-person graduations could be altered based on guidance that we receive from these officials. However, we will make every effort to honor this plan for live, in-person commencement ceremonies. We hope that our seniors and families understand this balance, and we appreciate the grace and flexibility they have already demonstrated.

We are still working through alternative plans if we receive updated guidance and planned graduations need to be adjusted. We will share any alternative arrangements at a later date if needed.

These alternative plans include possible drive-in options and/or virtual, pre-produced ceremonies with options for alternative venues.

Graduation 2020 details will be posted and updated regularly at www.kcpublicschools.org/Graduation.

Congratulations to our Class of 2020! We are proud of you, and we look forward to honoring your accomplishments.