Westside High School

Address: 14201 Briar Forest Drive, Houston, TX 77077
Phone: 281-920-8000
Tyrone T. Davis, Principal

Dear HISD Spring 2026 Graduating Seniors, Parents and Guardians:

As we approach the culmination of your student's high school journey, we are excited to share details about the upcoming Spring 2026 Graduation Ceremony. This milestone marks a moment of pride, accomplishment, and celebration—not just for our graduates, but for the families, educators, and supporters who have guided them along the way.

To ensure a smooth and dignified ceremony, we ask for your support in adhering to the established district guidelines regarding check-in procedures, dress codes, guest expectations, and security protocols. These policies are designated to maintain a respectful and safe environment where each graduate can be honored appropriately.

Graduation Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, June 6
- **Venue: U of H Fertitta Center**
- **Venue Address:** 3422 Cullen Boulevard, Houston, TX 77024
- **Time:** 7:00 pm

Graduation Requirements and Procedures

Student Requirements

Only students who have fully met all academic obligations will be eligible to walk in the graduation ceremony. To participate in the spring commencement ceremony, students must:

- Successfully complete all required credits and meet all state requirements by the final Individual Graduation Committee (IGC) meeting on June 1st, prior to the last day of school, June 4, 2026.
- No coursework, Individual Graduation Committee (IGC) assignments, or attendance appeals will be accepted after June 1, 2026.

Graduate Check-in Procedures

- Graduates must arrive one hour before the ceremony for check-in.
- Graduates do not need a ticket to enter through the designated graduate entrance.
- Graduates will park and enter in the designated area. Refer to the maps.
  - **Delmar**: Mangum side close to the football field. Enter the loading dock entrance.
  - **Barnett**: Park in the general lot. Enter the left side under the Stadium ramp entrance. Follow the posted signs/arrows to the locker room entrance.
  - **U of H Fertitta Center**: Enter the **Alumni Center (off Cullen Blvd.)** and follow signs to holding area. Graduates will park in any general admission U of H parking lot (NOTE: There is a $20 parking lot fee). Give yourself time to find a parking lot/garage, a parking space and time to walk to the U of H Alumni Center.

- Upon arrival, graduates will be required to pass through weapon detectors and/or undergo screening with security wands.
- School representatives will guide graduates to line up and proceed to their designated seats.

Dress Code Requirements

- Caps and gowns are mandatory for entry into the ceremony.
- Appropriate attire must be worn under academic regalia.
- Modest heels and/or comfortable shoes are recommended, as graduates will navigate steps and ramps. Walking may occur across concrete/carpet and may be a distance.

Approved Accessories:

Graduates may wear the following accessories:

- Academic and athletic achievement medals earned in high school.
- Honor cords representing academic excellence, clubs, or honor societies.
- HISD ribbons awarded for specific accomplishments.
- Graduation stoles approved by the campus principal or designee.
- Decorated or personalized graduation caps with prior approval from the principal or campus designee. *Any cap with an inappropriate message/image on day of ceremony will be removed before the graduate enters the ceremony.*

Personally-created and unapproved stoles, ribbons or embellishments are not allowed to be worn.

Additional Information

- **Electronic devices, including cell phones, are not permitted on the venue floor.**
- For cap and gown orders, please contact your campus graduation representative.
- **Graduates should not bring purses or bags into the building**. Graduating seniors are not allowed to carry any items during the ceremony. We will not have places to safely store items.
- Students are responsible for obtaining their own graduation announcements.

Guest Information

Tickets, Seating, and Parking

- Attendance is limited, and all guests age 2 and above must have a ticket at all venues. Children must be seated with a responsible adult.
- Graduates do not need a ticket to enter through the designated graduate entrance.
- Seating is determined by each venue's capacity. Specific ticketing information will be provided by your campus.

Parking Information

- **U of H Fertitta Center:** Parking is $20.00 and payment must be made via debit or credit card only. No cash accepted.
- **Barnett and Delmar Fieldhouse:** Parking is free at these venues.

NOTE: HISD Police and additional law enforcement will be on-site to assist with traffic flow and directions.

Live Streaming

HISD will not provide a live virtual viewing option for the graduation ceremonies. NOTE: Recorded ceremonies will be available for later viewing on the HISD Spring 2026 Graduation website:

https://www.houstonisd.org/our-district/celebrations-recognition/graduation

Safety and Security

- HISD Police and additional law enforcement will be present for security and traffic control.
- First aid stations will be available on-site for any medical needs.

Bag Policy and Screening Measures

- All guests will be required to pass through weapon detectors and/or be screened with the security wands.
- To expedite entry, guests are encouraged not to bring bags. If a bag is necessary, the following are preferred:
  - A clear bag (maximum size: 12" x 6" x12"), or
  - A small clutch (maximum size: 4.5" x 6.5")
- Diaper bags are permitted. All bags are subject to search upon entry.

Prohibited Items

Bringing prohibited items or engaging in inappropriate behavior may result in denied entry or removal from the venue. The following are not allowed:

- Disorderly conduct
- Smoking or vaping
- Alcohol or drugs
- Firearms, explosives, or weapons
- Laser pointers, drones
- Littering or use of glitter
- Noisemakers (e.g., air horns, cowbells, whistles)
- Balloons, large signs, banners, flags, beach balls, confetti, or streamers
- Any item obstructing another guest's view
- Outside food and drinks (Exception: clear water bottles as needed for health reasons)
- Wandering into restricted areas
- Any item deemed inappropriate by Houston ISD staff

Behavioral Standards

❖ For Graduates

Graduation is a formal occasion that marks a significant milestone. Maintaining discipline and decorum ensures a meaningful celebration for all graduates and their families. Graduates are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and respect throughout the ceremony, including:

- During assembly and line-up
- Throughout the processional and recessional
- While crossing the stage to receive their diploma

To maintain the integrity of the ceremony, the following behaviors are strictly prohibited:

- Poses, flips, dances, pranks, or hand gestures (except for a handshake while receiving the diploma).

❖ For Guests

We kindly ask all guests to support a respectful and orderly environment by following these guidelines:

- Refrain from excessive cheering, yelling, or screaming – every family deserves the chance to hear their graduate's name called.
- Remain seated for the entire ceremony, including during the presentation of diplomas and the recessional.
- Silence all cell phones and refrain from phone conversations during the ceremony.
- Do not toss objects in the air, as this can cause disruption and safety hazards.
- Guests are not permitted in the graduate staging area or on the event floor at any time.

We look forward to celebrating this important milestone with you. Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication deserve to be recognized in a dignified and memorable ceremony. Thank you for your cooperation in making this a meaningful event for all.

QUESTIONS

westside.houstonisd.org
www.uh.edu/fertitta-center

Sincerely,

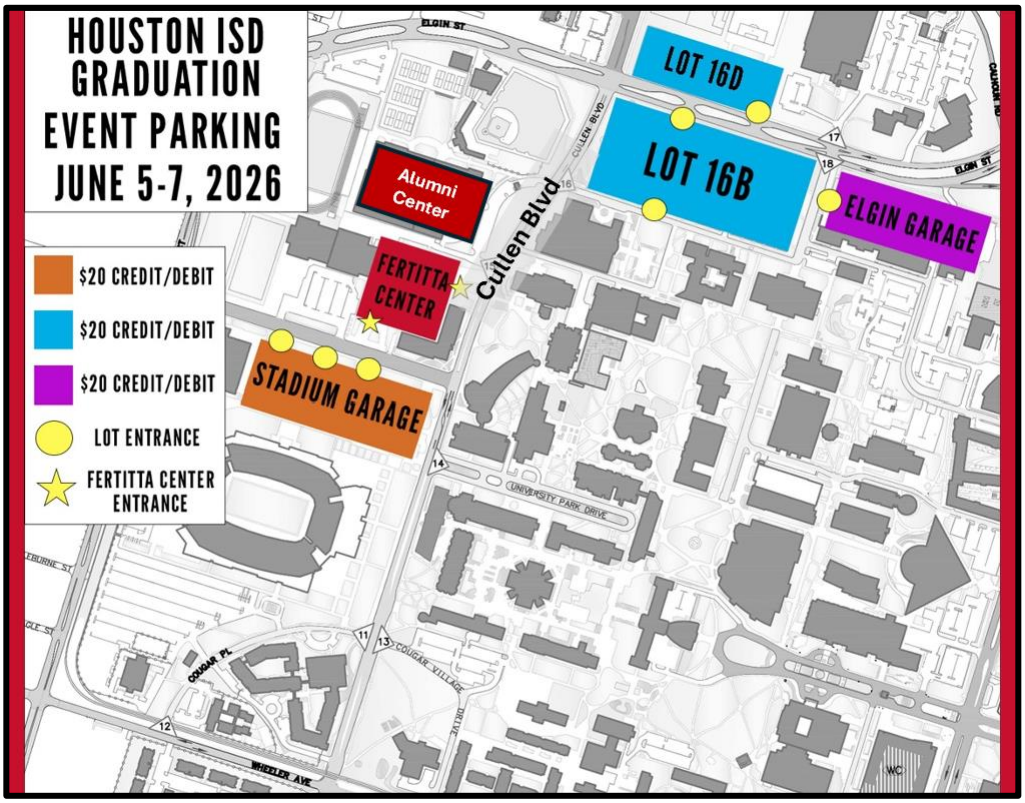
Tyrone T. Davis
Principal, Westside High School
Houston Independent School District

HISD

University of Houston

Fertitta Center Map

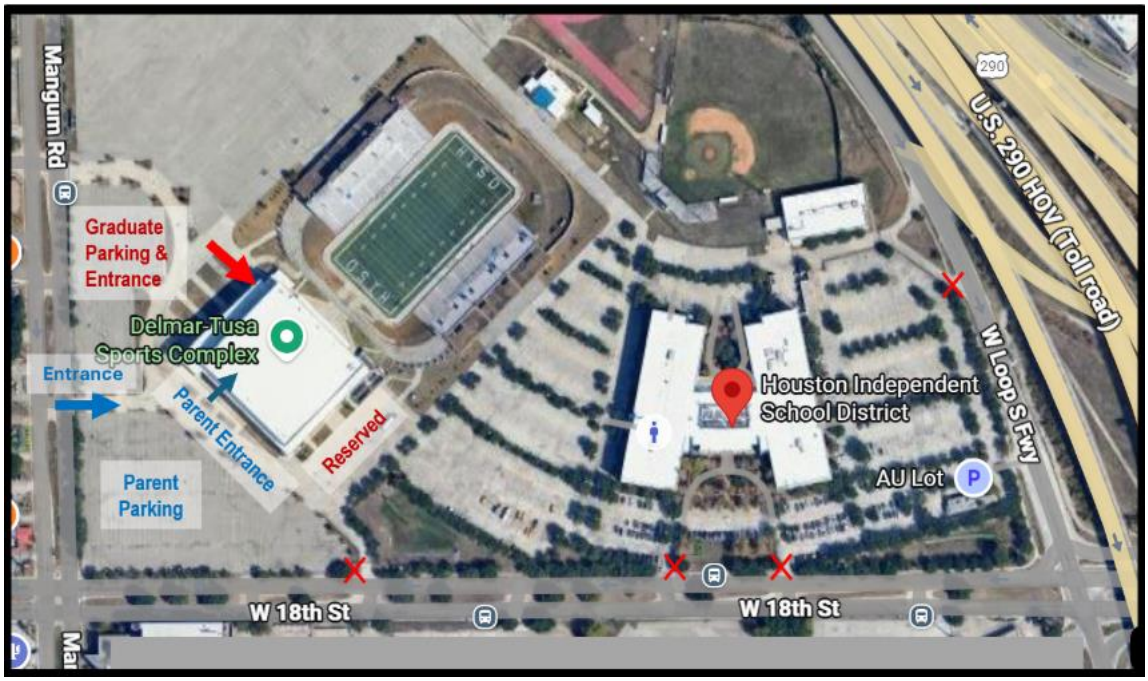
3422 Cullen Boulevard; Houston, Texas 77024



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Delmar Map

2020 Mangum Road; Houston, Texas 77092



Barnett Map

6800 Fairway; Houston, Texas 77087

