

GRADUATION 2020

In-person Graduations in July

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the daily lives of GCPS students and families. We know that our seniors especially missed events and activities tied to their last year of high school. While our virtual graduation ceremonies in May gave everyone an opportunity to celebrate our seniors, the district is making plans to hold traditional, in-person ceremonies in mid-July as long as current guidance and regulations allow. **While guidance may change, planning must take place now.** Following are some need-to-know reminders and deadlines as well as guidance for families about the precautions that our schools will take to make these events as safe as possible.

We appreciate all that our graduates and their families will do to help ensure that this is a special and safe event for all.

Register to attend In-person Graduation and reserve and pick up family tickets

Register to attend In-person Graduation and reserve Graduation Tickets (July 1 Deadline)

We know that not all graduates will choose to attend the in-person ceremony scheduled for their school. For that reason, **students must register to attend In-Person Graduation on MyPaymentsPlus no later than July 1.** Students who do not register will not be included in the in-person graduation ceremony. Each graduate who participates in the in-person event may reserve tickets for family members to attend. Students will receive two to four tickets for the graduation event, based on the final number of graduates registered. (Note that no more than four spectators will be able to sit together at the event.) Live streaming of the events will be available for those not attending in person. Look for information on the school website.

Graduation Ticket and Information Pick-up

Families should check the school's website for times and school-specific instructions for pick-up. *As a reminder, you must register on MyPaymentsPlus by July 1 in order to pick up tickets.*

On Pick-up Day

- Follow signs at your high school to the designated pick-up area(s).
- Do not leave your vehicle during pick-up. No graduates or family members will be permitted to exit their vehicle or congregate with others. This will be strictly enforced for the safety of all.
- Write graduate's full name (last name, first name) on a piece of paper in bold marker and place the sign where it is visible through your vehicle's windshield.
- School personnel will come to the window of the car to read the name of the graduate. Do not unroll your windows.
- When directed, remotely pop the trunk or hatch (preferred) or unlock the back door. Personnel will place a packet with the graduate's family tickets, event-day information, and parking directions in the vehicle.

Precautionary Measures for In-person Graduation Ceremonies

Based on guidance, GCPS is taking a number of safety precautions to ensure that our planned graduations are as safe as possible. Participants will be asked to observe the following:

- **Maintain physical distance of six feet or more**, whenever possible. Family groups of no more than four will sit together, with distance between family groups. Families and graduates are discouraged from mingling with others before or after the ceremony.
- **Wear face masks.** Health officials recommend that individuals wear face masks/coverings to prevent transmission of illness when gathered indoors. Participants are strongly urged to follow this guidance.

Additional Precautions

These protocols will be observed during ceremonies:

- **Seating and Dismissal**– Graduates will not line up and file into the arena. Instead, they will check in and be assigned a seat, filling the seating area from front to back, with seats placed six feet apart. Seat assignments will not be in alphabetical order. At the end of the ceremony, graduates will be dismissed back to front. Graduates will leave the building directly after the ceremony. Graduates and families are asked to avoid congregating in groups with others.
- **Signage**– Families and graduates will be directed to follow one-way signs when moving around the building to reduce face-to-face exposure.
- **Cleaning**– Throughout the day, event staff will keep restrooms clean/disinfected. In addition, visitors will have access to hand sanitizer stations. Between ceremonies, event staff will clean and disinfect all high-touch surfaces.

To ensure that the Infinite Energy Center can be thoroughly cleaned and prepared for the next ceremony, please leave the building immediately after the ceremony.



Information for Graduates

Here's important information you need to know:

- **Cap and gown are required.** If you need to purchase or pick up your cap and gown, please refer to your school's website for more information.
- **Graduates will find information** on parking, where to enter the building, and other key details in the ticket packet they pick up at their school.

On the Day of the Ceremony...

- **Arrive one hour prior** to the start of the ceremony, dressed in cap and gown.
- **On arrival, report to floor and check in.** Each graduate will receive a name card and be assigned a seat. No one will be seated after the ceremony begins.
- **Graduates may not leave once they have arrived and checked in.** They will not be permitted to leave the seating area to visit with family and friends, and must stay in their seats until the ceremony.
- **Graduates are permitted to have cap, gown, and car keys only.** Do not bring cellphones, purse, or other items.
- **The ceremony will not have some of the elements that you usually see at graduation.** Graduates' seats will be not be placed in tight rows, but will be separated by six feet. There will not be a processional or a recessional. Your principal will not shake your hand and students will be discouraged from tossing their caps since they will not be able to retrieve them. *That said, your graduation ceremony is designed as a special way to commemorate this milestone in your education. Congratulations!*

Information for Families

Here's important information you need to know:

- **Information on parking, where to enter the building, and other details** will be included in the packet that your graduate receives during pick up and will also be available on the school website.
- **Doors will open for seating** when event staff complete cleaning from the previous event.
- **Event staff will seat your party according to guidelines.** No more than four individuals will be seated in a family group, with spacing between family groups. **Families may not change seats once seated.** Family members are not allowed in the seating area for graduates, and should plan to meet their graduate outside after the ceremony.
- **Spectators are encouraged to observe safety precautions,** including wearing face masks/coverings and maintaining appropriate physical distance.
- **Please be courteous and avoid excessive/loud celebration** when your graduate is called to ensure that other families can hear their graduate's name.

2020 Gwinnett County Public Schools July Graduation Schedule

Should conditions allow, GCPS has planned in-person graduation ceremonies. With the exception of Gwinnett Online Campus, all of these ceremonies would be held at the Infinite Energy (IE) Center.

In-person graduation ceremonies will take place only if current guidance and regulations will allow. Although we will not know what guidance we will be following until July 1, planning must take place now. **With that in mind, families must register to attend by July 1.** We anticipate that each graduate will receive two to four tickets. Actual registration numbers will determine the final number of tickets distributed per graduate at each school.

Registration for July graduation events will open June 19 on MyPaymentsPlus.

Duluth	Mon., July 13	8:30 a.m.	IE Arena
Paul Duke STEM	Mon., July 13	10 a.m.	IE Exhibit Halls A/B
Discovery	Mon., July 13	2 p.m.	IE Arena
Phoenix	Mon., July 13	6 p.m.	IE Theatre
Gwinnett Online Campus	Mon., July 13	7 p.m.	GOC Auditorium
Central Gwinnett	Mon., July 13	7:30 p.m.	IE Arena
Dacula	Tues., July 14	8:30 a.m.	IE Arena
GSMST	Tues., July 14	10 a.m.	IE Exhibit Halls A/B
Archer	Tues., July 14	2 p.m.	IE Arena
McClure Health Science	Tues., July 14	6 p.m.	IE Theatre
Shiloh	Tues., July 14	7:30 p.m.	IE Arena
Mountain View	Wed., July 15	8:30 a.m.	IE Arena
Berkmar	Wed., July 15	2 p.m.	IE Arena
Norcross	Wed., July 15	7:30 p.m.	IE Arena
Meadowcreek	Thurs., July 16	8:30 a.m.	IE Arena
Grayson	Thurs., July 16	2 p.m.	IE Arena
South Gwinnett	Thurs., July 16	7:30 p.m.	IE Arena
North Gwinnett	Fri., July 17	8:30 a.m.	IE Arena
Peachtree Ridge	Fri., July 17	2 p.m.	IE Arena
Collins Hill	Fri., July 17	7:30 p.m.	IE Arena
Parkview	Sat., July 18	8:30 a.m.	IE Arena
Brookwood	Sat., July 18	2 p.m.	IE Arena
Mill Creek	Sat., July 18	7:30 p.m.	IE Arena
Lanier	Sun., July 19	2 p.m.	IE Arena

Due to the fluid nature of COVID-19, GCPS reserves the right to cancel planned graduation ceremonies should guidance indicate that in-person events can no longer be held safely. Any change in plans will be communicated to families as soon as possible.