



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

June 11, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members:

As we wind down a very challenging and unprecedented year, we have many exciting events and activities that we look forward to celebrating. Below, please see the information related to the end of the school year and the summer.

Eighth Grade Promotion & Graduation/Class Awards Ceremonies

Elizabeth Public Schools is excited to announce that it will be holding indoor ceremonies for eighth grade promotion and for high school graduation to suitably recognize the outstanding milestone achievements of its eighth grade students and seniors of the graduating Class of 2021. Class awards will be incorporated into the high school graduation ceremonies.

In a press conference on Monday, June 4th, Governor Murphy noted the following about indoor gatherings:

- Removal of the general indoor gathering limit, which is currently at 50 people
- Removal of the indoor gathering limit for political gatherings, weddings, funerals, memorial services, performances, and other catered and commercial events, which is currently at 250 people
- Removal of the 30 percent capacity limitation for indoor large venues with a fixed-seating capacity over 1,000.

In consultation with Dr. Guillermo Munoz and the City of Elizabeth Health Officer, it has been determined that district schools can hold eighth grade promotion and graduation ceremonies indoors without issues pertaining to capacity. Additionally, the district has determined that capacity for any of the ceremonies, given the guidelines of two adults per student, will fall well below the capacity of any of the respective designated venues.

The schedule for eighth grade promotion ceremonies, which will be held at each respective PK/K-8 school, and high school graduation/class awards ceremonies, which will be held at the Dunn Sports Center, are as follows:

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremonies

Tuesday, June 22 – 9:00 a.m.

Toussaint L'Ouverture – Marquis de Lafayette School No. 6
Benjamin Franklin School No. 13
Christopher Columbus School No. 15
Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27
Juan Pablo Duarte – José Julián Martí School No. 28
Dr. Albert Einstein Academy School No. 29
Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy School No. 30

Wednesday, June 23 – 9:00 a.m.

George Washington Academy School No. 1
Abraham Lincoln School No. 14
Madison – Monroe School No. 16
Robert Morris School No. 18
Woodrow Wilson School No. 19
Victor Mravlag School No. 21
Dr. Orlando Edreira Academy School No. 26

Wednesday, June 23 – 1:00 p.m.

Nicholas S. LaCorte – Peterstown School No. 3
Joseph Battin School No. 4
Terence C. Reilly School No. 7
iPrep Academy School No. 8
John Marshall School No. 20
Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25

Thursday, June 24 – 9:00 a.m.

Winfield Scott School No. 2
Mabel G. Holmes School No. 5
Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9
Elmora School No. 12
William F. Halloran School No. 22
Nicholas Murray Butler School No. 23

High School Graduation/Class Awards Ceremonies

Friday, June 25

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy @ 9:00 a.m.
Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy @ 1:00 p.m.
J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy @ 5:00 p.m.

Monday, June 28

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy @ 9:00 a.m.
Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy @ 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 29

Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy @ 9:00 a.m.
Thomas Edison Career & Technical Academy @ 1:00 p.m.

Please note that eighth grade diplomas and awards will be issued on the last day of school and that all students will be required to attend school until the last day (June 25th).

28th Annual Excellence Awards Dinner

The 28th Annual Excellence Awards Dinner for the top 100 seniors of the graduating class of 2021 will take place on Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

High School Final Exams

Beginning Thursday, June 17, high school students will be administered final exams for the 2020-2021 school year. With the goal of returning to normalcy during the 2020-2021 school year, teachers and school administrators notified students in September and throughout the school year that final exams would be administered. In recognition of the extraordinary circumstances caused by the pandemic, we have set a minimum grade for final exams for this school year, in order to avoid harming a student’s opportunity to pass a course. Final exams are important because they address knowledge and skills that may not have been mastered when benchmarks, unit tests, and other assessments were administered but may be mastered by the end of the school year; provide students an opportunity to bring up 20% of their final grade for the school year; provide an additional component of a course final grade to give new entrant students the opportunity to gain course credit; and provide educators and students in grades 9-11 with instructional and curricular feedback for the following school year.

The schedule for the administration of final exams is as follows:

DATE	EXAM #1	EXAM #2
Thursday, June 17	Period 5	Period 1
Friday, June 18	Period 6	Period 2
Monday, June 21	Period 7	Period 3
Tuesday, June 22	Period 4	

DESCRIPTION	START TIME	END TIME
Exam #1 Attendance & Preparation	7:30 AM	7:50 AM
Exam #1 Administration	7:50 AM	9:50 AM
Break	9:50 AM	10:05 AM
Exam #2 Attendance & Preparation	10:05 AM	10:20AM
Exam #2 Administration	10:20 AM	12:20 PM
Dismissal	12:22 PM	

Summer Programs

Summer programs will be offered from July 6th through August 5th. All programs will be held at air-conditioned facilities and transportation will be provided to K-8 students that reside 2.0 miles and beyond for eligible programs. Online registration will be required for these programs. The World of Summer Programs brochure will be made available online on Tuesday, June 15.

The American Rescue Plan

As a reminder, Elizabeth Public Schools Elizabeth Public Schools has been awarded American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funds this school year. We encourage all of our stakeholders to comment on the plan via the email address established for this purpose. Our stakeholders include parents, teachers, and others. Public comments on this plan will be considered as Elizabeth Public Schools finalizes its plan.

Public Comment Email: EPS.ARP2021@epsnj.org

We encourage students, families, teachers, team members, and community members to complete a survey that takes fewer than five minutes to submit and lets your voice be heard. All survey responses are anonymous.

Complete the survey today at [American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Funds Stakeholder Survey 2020-2021](#). The ARP ESSER survey is open through Wednesday, June 30. Responses to the survey will be reviewed for inclusion into the district's ARP ESSER plan and grant application.

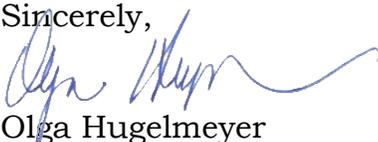
The survey is available in the following languages: English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Arabic.

Your feedback will be an invaluable resource to the district as we move forward with the planning process for how APR ESSER funds will be used to make the most impact for our students.

In the coming weeks, I look forward to celebrating the successes of our students together during our end of year ceremonies as well as preparing for the upcoming school year when we finally will all be together again in our schools and enjoying a greater sense of normalcy.

Thank you once more for your support throughout this incredibly challenging school year and especially throughout the course of the pandemic.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools