



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

June 10, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members:

Elizabeth Public Schools remains committed to both maintaining the safety of students, team members, and families while providing seniors of the graduating Class of 2020 with memorable ceremonies to suitably recognize their outstanding milestone achievements as we send them off to college and career success.

Governor Murphy recently announced that outdoor gatherings, while maintaining social distancing, will increase to 500 people after July 3. In accordance with the mandates and orders that have been put in place, graduation ceremonies will take place in July with the following provisions:

- Temperatures will be checked as individuals enter Williams Field. Anyone running a fever (over 100.4), including graduates, will not be allowed to attend or participate.
- Everyone will be required to wear a mask, including graduates.
- Graduates will receive **two tickets** each. The tickets will include a seat number. Limiting the number of guests and assigning them to seats at least six feet apart will ensure social distancing.
- Williams Field, including bleachers and seats, will be disinfected multiple times daily.
- Graduates will sit six feet apart during the ceremony.
- There will be no handshakes. Diplomas will be mailed home at a later date.
- Ceremonies will be condensed to approximately one hour to limit exposure.
- Graduates who are unable to participate in the ceremony will still be recognized during their high school's commencement. All of the ceremonies will be live streamed online

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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All Elizabeth Class of 2020 graduation ceremonies are scheduled for July 13-16, 2020 and will be held at Williams Field as follows:

Monday, July 13

Elizabeth High School-Frank J. Cicarell Academy @ 9:00 a.m.

Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy @ 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 14

John E. Dwyer Technology Academy @ 9:00 a.m.

Admiral William F. Halsey Health and Public Safety Academy @ 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15

J. Christian Bollwage Finance Academy @ 9:00 a.m.

Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy @ 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 16

Thomas Edison Career & Technical Academy @ 9:00 a.m.

The City of Elizabeth Department of Health will continue to be consulted during the planning of graduation ceremonies and each high school will communicate their plan for seniors including preparation for graduation.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the school experience of all our students, especially our seniors whose Elizabeth Public Schools careers will officially end with these ceremonies. The path we have traveled since March has offered hardships, disappointing moments, and difficult life lessons. It is my hope that these ceremonies, while unconventional, will serve as a fondly remembered starting point in the successful futures of our graduating students and the slow return of our school community as we come together to honor and congratulate the Class of 2020.

Thank you once again for your support and understanding. Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools