

Updated Guidance on Graduation Requirements, Class Rank and Graduation Ceremonies

Over the last few weeks, we've gathered feedback from across school communities and district as we figure out how best to support students in remote learning during this challenging time. As COVID-19 continues to impact in-person learning opportunities and community gatherings, DPS released updated guidance on **graduation requirements, class rank and graduation ceremonies**.

Graduation Requirements - We recognize that for many students, the opportunity to show that they are ready to graduate was interrupted by the COVID-19 crisis. For students putting in the work but deeply impacted by COVID-19 and struggling to meet graduation requirements, school leaders and counselors will meet with students to explore options while considering any potential impacts to a student's postsecondary plans.

Class Rank Update - All district-run schools will calculate class rank as of the end of the last completed grading period for all grades, 9-12. This will be their class rank for the remainder of the year. We reached this decision after consulting with other school leaders, teachers and students. We remain committed to putting equity at the center of all of our decision-making. We recognize many students are coping with additional unforeseen burdens during the pandemic that could negatively impact their ability to compete for class rank, and want to make sure their hard work is recognized.

Virtual Graduation Ceremony - We've been tremendously inspired by how school communities have banded together to celebrate our seniors during this unprecedented time. We could have never imagined being in this situation, but the pandemic is causing us to think differently about how we approach celebrations while following state health guidelines to keep our students and families safe. Per the safety recommendations from Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) and DPS, schools will hold virtual graduations to celebrate our seniors before they launch into their plans for careers and college.

We know this time has caused many uncertainties and stress for all of us. We sincerely appreciate how supportive you and your communities have been throughout the last few weeks as we've grappled with change after change.