



May 26, 2020

Graduation Ceremony Change

Dear Everett Public School seniors and families:

We hope this letter finds your family healthy and well. When we sent information to you on [May 20](#) on how graduation would be handled within the parameters of Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" mandate, we knew there would be some disappointment. No matter what option we choose that is allowable by the health district during COVID-19 restrictions, it will not look the way it has in the past, which is sad and frustrating for many.

The main concern we heard about the plan at the Civic Auditorium is that parents would not be allowed in the Auditorium to see their graduate walk across the stage. We hear you and have made the only allowable change possible to the graduation plan.

PROVIDED WE ARE IN PHASE 2 of the governor's phased reopening, we will now have a covered stage set up in the south parking lot at Everett Memorial Stadium. This will allow each family, at their assigned date and time, to drive up to the stage, let their graduate get out of the car and walk across the stage while being recorded. This recording will be consolidated into a final digital celebration but will also allow parents to personally see their student walk across the stage. The following criteria must be followed in order to allow this option:

- We must be in phase 2 of the phased reopening
- One car per family
- Only family members are allowed in the car
- Graduate must wear a mask until they walk across the stage
- As soon as the graduate walks across the stage they must get back in the car and immediately leave the parking area

If we are not in Phase 2 by June 10, we will implement plan B, which is 100% virtual and involves collecting photos of seniors to splice into the final digital graduation. We will be collecting photos for school slide shows that could be used in this back-up option.

All speeches will be recorded at Civic Auditorium on June 10, and Sequoia High School will still hold their graduation at Civic Auditorium, also on June 10. The outdoor stage approach will be for the three comprehensive high schools, with Cascade High filming on June 11, Jackson High on June 12 and Everett High on June 13. You will receive more detailed information soon from your school.

Thank you for your partnership as we celebrate this milestone event while keeping everyone safe,

Dr. Ian Saltzman
Superintendent