

To: Superintendents and Principals
From: Stephen Balko, Director of School Building Security
Shannon Dick, Innovation Specialist
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Subject: Virtual and Socially Distant Graduation Tools

During this unusual time of COVID-19, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is committed to supporting districts and schools as they celebrate the Class of 2020. Districts and schools should coordinate commencement and graduation plans in consultation with local health departments, to ensure a safe environment for graduates, staff, and families. Keep in mind, guidelines may be altered for May and June based on the fluidity of the situation. There are many options to consider when planning ceremonies/recognitions, including the use of video or display tributes, digital platforms, and the utilization of social media to encourage participation from graduates and their families. Resources and ideas can be found below.

1. Digital Graduation Platforms

- a. [Edmentum Virtual Graduation](#) (resource guide)
- b. [Grad Digital](#)
- c. [Live Tassel](#)
- d. [Marching Order](#) (paid resource)

2. Socially Distant Options - (Please consult your local health department guidelines.)

- a. Traditional Graduation with a digital twist - [Mississippi](#)
- b. Parade through town with supporters socially distanced
- c. Large parking lot where students can walk between parked cars of supporters
 - i. [Frisco, Texas](#)
- d. Drive-in movie theaters utilizing speaker system
 - i. [Pennsylvania](#)
 - ii. [Arkansas](#)
 - iii. Utilize pre-recorded speeches and slideshows
- e. [Outdoor displays](#) - families display individual student memorabilia
- f. School displays - [Florida](#)

3. Digital Presenting Programs

- a. Zoom
- b. YouTube Live
- c. Facebook Live
- d. Yearbook/Photo slideshow

4. Ceremony Ideas

- a. Cap and Gown
 - i. Mail cap and gown to students
 - ii. Ask for photos of students in their regalia to be shared during ceremonies.
- b. Programs, Handouts, and Announcements
 - i. Included digitally on commencement platforms.
 - ii. Programs can also be printed and mailed to families of graduates.
- c. Recognition
 - i. Recognize graduates online through a webpage and in social media accounts. Collect photos of graduates, and consider the use of a slideshow.
 - ii. During the event (live or recorded) state the name and achievement of each graduate.
- d. Additional information can be found in the [Indiana University Guide to Virtual Events](#).

5. Identifying and Contacting Speakers

- a. Digital world. Simply reach out to prospective speakers. These can be pre-recorded.
- b. Celebrities are giving [Virtual Commencement Speeches](#) via iHeart Radio podcasts.
- c. Does your school or community have any alumni you could contact that you may not otherwise?