



2018 GRADUATION INFORMATION

FAQ – Family

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find the District's graduation schedule?

DeKalb County School District will hold 23 of 24 graduation ceremonies May 21-26, 2018 at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) located at 285 Andrew Young International Boulevard, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30313. The graduation schedule is posted on the DeKalb County School District's website. You may visit the site by clicking the following link: <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/grad-central-station/graduation-schedule/>.

What time are graduates expected to arrive at the GWCC?

Graduates should arrive two hours prior to the scheduled start time of the graduation ceremony for a final practice and ceremony preparations at the GA World Congress Center.

Will transportation be provided for students?

Yes. Air-conditioned charter buses are offered to all schools for round-trip service to/from the venue. Principals will provide each graduate with a permission slip for parents to complete and return indicating whether or not their child will ride the charter bus to/from the GWCC. Principals will share transportation pick-up and drop-off times with parents/graduates. School chaperones will ride the buses with the graduates.

When should parents/family members arrive for their student's graduation ceremony?

The graduation hall (C1) will open doors to parents/family members approximately forty-five (45) minutes prior to each ceremony. All guests attending the ceremony will enter through Hall C2 doors located next to the Hall C3 entry doors to a waiting area until the ceremony begins.

Where should I park?

The Georgia World Congress Center has several parking areas at the venue. Please utilize the attached map of the venue to plan your visit. **The parking lot/deck fee is \$15 per car; however, if you purchase your tickets prior to the day of your visit, tickets are \$10 using the following link: <https://gwcc.clickandpark.com/>. The parking code for DeKalb is DKCG.** If you prefer to ride MARTA, please click on the following link for fees and scheduling information: <https://martaguide.com/train-schedules/>. **GWCC has designated the entrance near West Plaza on Northside Drive as a feasible drop-off location for persons with limited walking abilities and persons with wheelchair accessibility requirements, if needed (See GWCC Venue Map).**

Are tickets required to enter the graduation ceremony? Is reserved seating available at the graduation ceremony?

Open seating is offered at each graduation ceremony on a first-come, first-serve basis for graduates' families and guests. Late arrival will impact entry to the ceremony hall. Guests who require special accommodations such as wheelchairs will have reserved seating.

Where do I meet up with my student after the graduation ceremony is over?

The graduates will recess out of the ceremony hall to West Plaza first, followed by guests upon cue. If your graduate plans to board the charter bus to return to their high school, they will go directly to the bus to immediately leave the venue following the ceremony.



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FAQ – Family continued

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When will graduates receive their diplomas?

Graduates will receive diploma covers at the ceremony. Each high school has designated a date and time for graduates to retrieve their diplomas at their school. Schools will provide additional information prior to the ceremony.

Will I have an opportunity to take photos of my graduate on the stage?

No. A contracted photography vendor will take a series of photos of each graduate to commemorate this special occasion. Graduates will receive a photo of themselves receiving their diploma cover on stage as part of their graduation package. The photography vendor will share additional photos of graduates with schools/graduates that will be available for purchase.

What does my graduate need to bring to the venue?

Graduates and guests should wear comfortable shoes and travel light. The District will conduct three to four graduation ceremonies daily. The practice room for graduates and ceremony hall must be emptied and cleaned immediately after attendees exit the area in order to prepare for the next ceremony. Graduates should enter the ceremony hall free of gear and non-district approved paraphernalia such as medallions, honor cords, ribbons etc.

Is food permitted in the venue?

No. Food is not allowed in the GWCC; however, GWCC will have beverages in the lobby area available for purchase. Graduates are asked to eat a meal prior to their graduation ceremony.

Are the graduation ceremonies recorded?

Yes. Each graduation ceremony will be recorded and broadcasted via live stream link. The link will be provided on the Grand Central Station's website after May 14, 2018, <http://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/grad-central-station/graduation-schedule/>. There is a possibility that attendees may be recorded during the taping. Graduates may check the Grad Central Station link after July 19, 2018 for information on how they may obtain copies of the ceremony.

What additional information can you share as I plan my visit?

- Planning ahead for an early arrival is essential.
- GWCC is large facility with various upgrade projects and other graduation ceremonies taking place simultaneously with DCSD's event. **Expect a great deal of walking -- wear comfortable shoes.**
- All cell phones/electronic devices must be turned off prior to entering the ceremony hall.
- **Balloons, noisemakers, signs, luggage, backpacks, etc. are not permitted in the venue or graduation hall.**
- Visit Georgia World Congress Center's website: www.gwcca.org.
- All guests attending the ceremony will enter through Hall C2 doors located next to the Hall C3 entry doors to a waiting area until the ceremony begins.