



2019 GRADUATION INFORMATION

FAQ – Family
Frequently Asked Questions

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Will transportation be provided for students?

Yes. Air-conditioned 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 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 or family members arrive for their student’s graduation ceremony?

The graduation hall (C1) doors will open to parents and family members approximately forty-five (45) minutes prior to each ceremony. All guests will be directed to Hall C2 to a waiting area until the ceremony begins. **Early arrival is highly recommended on May 29, 2019 and June 1, 2019 due to scheduled Atlanta United soccer games.**

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/>.** If you prefer to ride MARTA, please click on the following link for fees and scheduling information: <https://martaguide.com/train-schedules/>. **Parking cost will increase after 1:00 p.m. on May 29, 2019 and June 1, 2019. Using MARTA is highly recommended for the 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. graduation ceremonies on these dates.**

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

No. 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 my graduate 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 bus to return to the high school, the student will go directly to the bus to leave the GWCC immediately 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 the local 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 company 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 company 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 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 the graduation ceremony.

Are the graduation ceremonies recorded?

Yes. Each graduation ceremony will be recorded and broadcasted via live stream and Facebook live. The link for viewing the live ceremonies is on the Grad Central website at www.dekalbschoolsga.org/communications/dstv and www.facebook.com/dekalbschoolsga. There is a possibility that attendees in the audience may be recorded during the taping. Graduates may check the Grad Central link after June 14, 2019 at www.dekalbschoolsga.org/graduation or www.youtube.com/dekalbschools to access recorded ceremonies.

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

- Planning ahead for an early arrival is essential.
- GWCC is a large facility with various upgrade projects and other graduation ceremonies taking place simultaneously. **Expect a great deal of walking — wear comfortable shoes.**
- All cell phones and electronic devices must be silenced prior to entering the ceremony hall.
- Travel light. Backpacks are not permitted in the venue or graduation hall.
- Balloons, noise makers, signs, etc. are not permitted in the venue or graduation hall.
- 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.
- **Using MARTA is highly recommended for the 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. graduation ceremonies on May 29, 2019 and June 1, 2019 due to scheduled Atlanta United soccer games.**
- **There will be a guest waiting area available to accommodate early arrivals.**