

# HISD PRESS RELEASE

## **HISD graduating seniors to be honored during virtual ceremonies beginning June 14**

*Citywide celebration also scheduled for June 5 on high school campuses*

May 12, 2020 – The Houston Independent School District will hold graduation ceremonies virtually beginning June 14 for the Class of 2020.

“The district has been working diligently to celebrate our graduates, while ensuring the health and safety of our HISD community during the current COVID-19 crisis,” Interim Superintendent Grenita Lathan said. “Deciding that all high school graduations for our 11,000 seniors will take place virtually has been one of the most difficult decisions I have ever confronted as the district leader. However, I am so proud of the accomplishments of the historic Class of 2020 and the strength they have shown through this unique challenge.”

The virtual ceremonies will go live online on Sunday, June 14. Each virtual ceremony will include recorded messages from the superintendent and other district officials, as well as audio of each student’s name as their personalized slide is displayed.

Seniors will soon be contacted by their schools with instructions on how the information will be collected. Each graduate will also receive their own personalized content as a gift from the school to share on social media with family and friends.

Virtual graduations will allow students and families to celebrate the milestone event of completing high school while protecting their health and safety. Graduates’ guests will have the opportunity to remotely view the ceremony on multiple platforms. The virtual celebrations may also be shared on Facebook and other social media.

While the graduations will take place virtually, seniors will have an additional opportunity to celebrate with their classmates during a citywide celebration on June 5, hosted by Mayor Sylvester Turner. Details are still being finalized by city officials, but this celebration will take place outdoors at school campuses following strict safety measures. The ceremony will not be a commencement, and no diplomas will be issued to students during the event, which is optional. Students will receive more detailed instructions from campuses on how to participate and may also monitor the city’s website for additional information as it becomes available at [www.visithoustontexas.com/houston-2020-seniors/](http://www.visithoustontexas.com/houston-2020-seniors/).

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The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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