



**Joint Statement of Los Angeles County Director of Public Health Dr. Barbara Ferrer *and*  
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Debra Duardo *on*  
In-Person Graduation Ceremonies**

The health and safety of our County's students, staff and families are top priorities for all of us.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Officer's Safer at Home Order prohibits all public and private gatherings. The Order does not allow any exemptions for graduation gatherings of any type in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. This means all in-person graduation ceremonies, including use of cars for drive-in graduations (even if one student at a time), are considered public gatherings and are therefore prohibited. Virtual ceremonies are permitted and encouraged as a means of commemorating this important life event for young people and their families.

We fully appreciate how disappointing it is for all our graduates to be denied the recognition they deserve for their academic achievement. It is unfortunate that such an important rite of passage has to take place virtually during this pandemic, and we deeply regret the heartache this may cause our students and their families.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education does not have the authority to direct how a district or school will handle its graduation ceremonies. These are local decisions that will need to be made in compliance with the Safer at Home order.

We are confident the education community will find creative ways to virtually celebrate the Class of 2020 while protecting everyone's health and safety.

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