

## Press Clippings 04/21/20

---The Courier-News---04/21/2020

### Elgin-area districts set tentative summer graduation dates, make alternate plans for proms and other events

By: Rafael Guerrero



Elgin-area schools provided updates on graduation ceremonies, prom, and other events and their fates after schools were closed off for the remainder of the school year. Pictured is Class of 2018 South Elgin High School students visiting their former elementary school, Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin, during the elementary school's "grad parade" in 2018. (Rafael Guerrero / The Courier-News)

School District U-46 has rescheduled graduation ceremonies for July 11, pending any changes in health guidelines for gatherings of large groups.

Elgin-area schools provided some details on changes to events like graduation, prom and other pending events as a result of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's decision last week to close all schools for the remainder of this school year.

U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders said the class of 2020 commencement, originally scheduled for May 23, would be held at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates.

"A team is putting together a variety of efforts to recognize our seniors," he said. "Many of our principals and athletic directors have taken it upon themselves to deliver yard signs recognizing our seniors. Together, we will show our graduating class that we care for them.

"While we all may have expected this decision, I know that it's still difficult. We miss our students, we miss our colleagues, we miss all the athletic and fine arts events, the ceremonies and celebrations that are part of spring. We miss in-person classroom time."

Central School District 301's May 14 graduation ceremony for Central High School at the NIU Convocation Center in Dekalb is canceled. The new date will either be June 14 or July 19, Superintendent Todd Stirn said in a statement.

Central High's prom has also been delayed, and the new dates being considered are June 19, June 20, July 17, or July 18, Stirn wrote.

"We recognize that these two events are extremely important to our seniors and we want to do our best to provide this experience for them," he said. "All dates are pending the order by the governor and will be based on the 'large gathering' determinations that are developed when the stay-at-home orders are lifted."

District 301 is working on plans to proceed with summer school and whether summer athletic camps will proceed as planned, Stirn said.

St. Charles School District 303 has rescheduled its commencement ceremonies to July 25 at NIU, but the ceremony is pending any changes to health guidelines, Superintendent Jason Pearson wrote in his message to families.

Families of students in the St. Charles district should receive more information by May 1 on the status of final exams, Pearson said. District 303 officials are also evaluating the fate of its summer school and other summer programs, he said.

School District 300 has locked in two make-up graduation dates on June 6 and 27 and is looking at securing a third date in July, Superintendent Fred Heid said in a message Monday.

Graduation robes will be delivered in the next two weeks and should be available to students on the day they clean out lockers and pick up other belongings during the week of May 11, Heid said.

On the status of prom, Heid said, "I commend each of our schools on having worked so hard to secure backup dates. Unfortunately, at this time, we feel it is best to cancel all prom events," he said.

The status of D300's summer programs and camps remain on hold, he added.