



Excelsior Charter Schools
Central Office: 15505 Civic Drive
Victorville, California 92392
PH 760-245-4262 Fax 760-780-4996
www.excelsior.com

May 21, 2021

Drive Through/Virtual Graduation Parent Notification

Excelsior Charter School's decision to have a drive through graduation ceremony for our 2020/21 graduating Seniors is our best effort to remain compliant with the **San Bernardino County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Guidance for Outdoor Seated Live Events and Live Performances** while also providing our families and staff an opportunity to safely celebrate this educational milestone. Excelsior Charter Schools is operating under the most recent county mandate (effective April 1, 2021) for counties in the Red tier.

Families and staff enjoyed last year's drive through graduation over traditional ceremonies.

Traditional graduation ceremonies place families hundreds of feet away from their graduating senior and announce the graduates in 3 to 5 second intervals. By comparison, the drive through graduation ceremony allows every family significantly more time to capture their graduate's shining moment as they take center stage, take pictures, families to cheer up close and for family members to remain in the climate-controlled safety of their graduation decorated vehicles. While the event is considerably longer, students, families and staff communicated that the drive through event allowed for a more intimate, individualized celebration.

Contact Tracing and the Social Distancing Requirement

The current County Department of Public Health COVID-19 mandate requires Excelsior Charter Schools to be able to identify all individuals present at any school-controlled event. Further, a traditional ceremony would severely limit the number of student, staff and family attendees because of the requirement to physically distance non-family attendees. A traditional ceremony also requires temperature checks and additional sanitation efforts. Further a traditional ceremony could potentially require Excelsior to contact all attendees if any individual tested positive for COVID-19. Excelsior graduation ceremonies include students and families from across the entire county of San Bernardino which further makes having a traditional ceremony less appropriate for this school year because of the COVID-19 considerations. (Note: 3 or more individuals testing positive after a school event would identify Excelsior as having an outbreak. An outbreak would further restrict all Excelsior school-based offerings possibly impacting summer school and the upcoming school year).

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Superintendent



Virtual Graduation ceremony

The virtual ceremony, via YouTube, is a way to safely include all seniors and everyone in their families in the graduation festivities. All seniors will have the opportunity to purchase the recorded ceremony as well as receive a free memory clip to share with family and friends. The memory clip will include a highlight of the individual student in the ceremony. This is a great keepsake and an easy way to share your child's graduation on social media of just their graduation slide and clip.

We are excited for our graduating students!

Due to the success and feedback from last year's drive through graduation we are extremely excited about being able to safely celebrate with our 2021 graduating seniors.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Derek King".

Derek King, Ed.D.
Excelsior Charter Schools
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

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