

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL

GRADUATIONS FAQ

Q: Is there a handicap area?

A: Yes. Once you enter the Expo Hall ushers will guide the ADA individual and one guest to the ADA area. The rest of the family will sit in General seating area.

Q: Do Graduates need a ticket?

A: No.

Q: Do Guests need a ticket?

A: Yes! Each graduate received 10 tickets for family/friends. Each ticket has a unique QR code and will be scanned at the ticket scanning station this year. Each ticket is only scannable ONE Time.

Q: Why the change?

A: In the previous year's people attempted to print their own tickets or enter the Expo Hall then try to pass their tickets to outside individuals.

Q: What if we have more than 10 guests?

A: Each graduation is televised, use the link on the ticket or <https://hillsboroughschools.tv/>

Note:

Schools will receive a small supply of surplus tickets to issue to families should the need arise due to extenuating circumstances.

Families with surplus tickets may choose to "donate" extra tickets to another family in need. Administration will not issue extra tickets to parents or family members who call ROSSAC.

Q: What if we lose our tickets?

A: You must contact the school.

Q: What if my Senior did not receive their tickets?

A: You must contact the school, the FSFA does not have or distribute graduation tickets.

Q: Do we have to pay to park?

A: Yes, the cost is \$10 per vehicle (cash, credit, apple/google pay) You can also purchase parking online there is a QR code on the back of the ticket to the parking link.

Link to purchase parking: <https://tickets.floridastatefairgrounds.com/p/event/hcps-2026-high-school-graduations>

Q: Does the graduate have to pay to park?

A: Yes.

Q: What if I am dropping my student off?

A: Drop-offs are at the main parking booths. Everyone enters, pays to park.

Q: I have a handicap tag do I still have to pay to park?

A: Yes.

Q: I'm a faculty member do I have to pay to park?

A: Yes, unless you were given a parking pass from the school.

Q: Can I use my Faculty ID?

A: No – you must have been given a parking pass from the school.

Q: I lost my parking pass?

A: You must contact the school; without a parking pass you must pay to park.

Q: Where do we enter the Fairgrounds?

A: US Hwy 301 or MLK entrance.

Q: What time do the parking gates open?

A: One hour prior to the first graduation of the day.

Q: What time do the entry gates open for the Expo Hall?

A: 45 minutes prior to the graduation start time.

Q: What time do the graduates enter?

A: One hour prior to the graduation start time.

Q: Can I leave the Expo Hall and re-enter?

A: No (the ticket is only scannable one time).

Q: Can we bring a water bottle or snack?

A: No outside food or drink allowed. Concessions will be available.

Q: Can we bring flowers?

A: Yes, just no balloons, banners, signs or noise makers. Nothing that obstructs someone's view or interrupts hearing what the speaker is saying.

Q: Is there a wheelchair rental?

A: No, we do not have any wheelchairs onsite.

Q: What if my graduate does not have their cap/gown?

A: Contact the school for details. Each Schools cap and gown vendor should be onsite to the rear of Expo Hall near the Security Office

Q: Is there a shuttle service in the parking lot?

A: No.

Q: Where is Lost and Found?

A: Anything found in the Parking Lot/Expo Hall is turned into Kimberley Moritz who sits inside at the Northwest corner. You can call the administration office; we will attempt to locate it if the item is found.

Q: If a sibling attends the same school as the graduate, are they required to use a ticket to attend the ceremony?

A: Yes, every individual who enters the Expo Hall is required to have a ticket except for school/district staff who are working, graduates, band/orchestra members, and security personnel.

Q: If a graduate has a caregiver attending, is a ticket required for the caregiver, or is there accommodation for this situation?

A: If a graduate requires the support of a paraprofessional, physical/occupational therapist or other professional to participate in the graduation ceremony, they do not need a ticket. Depending on the extent to which the support person will assist the student during the ceremony, they will be expected to wear a black robe which is the district graduation ceremony dress code for school staff. The school will communicate directly with the student's support professional regarding graduation logistics.