



Ensuring the Class of 2020 is on track to graduate is an important priority. Districts should review the status of each senior to determine the extent to which students have met graduation requirements. It is important to understand individual student needs and have, to the extent possible, a plan to help each student complete these requirements during the remainder of the school year. The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of state graduation requirements and a brief summary of local authority around this issue. For additional resources, please visit the [OSDE Coronavirus/COVID-19 web page](#) and the [OSDE Counseling](#) and [High School Graduation Resources](#) pages.

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➤ **CLASS OF 2020 STATE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

[Graduation Credit Requirements Overview](#)

Each high school student shall complete a minimum of 23 high school credit hours prior to graduation according to either the College Preparatory/Work Ready Curriculum or the CORE Curriculum pathway prescribed by the Oklahoma State Board of Education. The requirements, as outlined in 70 O.S. §11-103.6 and OAC 210:35-25-2 Adoption of Subject Matter Standards and Options for High School Graduation include, but are not limited to, the following:

College Preparatory/Work Ready Curriculum	CORE Curriculum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Language Arts – 4 units or sets of competencies</li> <li>• Mathematics – 3 units or sets of competencies (must include Algebra I)</li> <li>• Science – 3 units or sets of competencies (must include Biology)</li> <li>• Social Studies – 3 units or sets of competencies (must include 1 unit of US History, ½ unit of US Government and ½ unit of OK History)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Language Arts – 4 units or sets of competencies</li> <li>• Mathematics – 3 units or sets of competencies (must include Algebra I)</li> <li>• Science – 3 units or sets of competencies (must include Biology)</li> <li>• Social Studies – 3 units or sets of competencies (must include 1 unit of US History, ½ unit of US Government and ½ unit of OK History)</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World Language or Technology – 2 units or sets of competencies</li><li>• Additional unit or set of competencies from those listed above</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• World Language or Technology – 1 unit or set of competencies</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fine Arts or Speech – 1 unit or set of competencies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Arts – 1 unit or set of competencies</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electives – 6 to total 23</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electives – 8 to total 23</li></ul>

For detailed graduation checklists by cohort, visit the [High School Graduation Resources](#) page.

#### [Do seniors still have to meet all graduation requirements in order to receive a high school diploma?](#)

The State Board has waived the mandatory reduction of state aid of a school district not meeting the requirements for the calendar year (180 days or 1,080 hours) due to the coronavirus pandemic making maintenance of the calendar year term impossible. This means attendance requirements can no longer be met and have been waived. However, all students are still required to complete at least 23 credits of required and elective coursework as outlined in the [Graduation Requirements](#) for the Class of 2020.

#### [Are there exceptions for seniors who are new to Oklahoma and may not be able to meet state course requirements such as Oklahoma history?](#)

Section 417 of 70 O.S. §11-103.6 pertains to Exceptions to Graduation Requirements. Students who transfer into an Oklahoma school district from out of state after the junior year of high school shall not be denied, due to differing graduation requirements, the opportunity to be awarded a standard diploma. The rules shall allow district boards of education to make exceptions on an individual student basis to high school graduation requirements for such students who would be unable to meet the specific graduation requirements without extending the date of graduation. School district boards of education may waive the Oklahoma history high school graduation requirements for children of military families as defined in the [Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children](#).

#### [What about seniors who have not met the Personal Financial Literacy \(PFL\) requirement?](#)

There are online Personal Financial Literacy resources available for students who have yet to meet this requirement. For PFL resources, visit the [OSDE Personal Financial Literacy](#) webpage. Consider whether requirements have already been met through courses offered at your school; for transfer students, verify if the requirement has been met at the previous school.

Completion of the PFL requirement is to be posted to the student's [transcript](#) with the following statement: *"The student has satisfactorily completed the 14 areas of instruction for Personal Financial Literacy."*



### Is the graduation requirement for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) waived?

Oklahoma law requires that all students enrolled in a public school are to receive CPR instruction at least once prior to graduation. This statutory requirement currently provides an exemption for students enrolled in a virtual charter school. Given the closure of school buildings for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, and provision of instructional services through distance learning, the OSDE interprets the intent of the statute, and the existing exemption for students enrolled in a virtual program, to be equally applicable to ***graduating seniors finishing the school year via distance learning***. As such, the OSDE believes this exemption can be extended to ***students in the graduating class of 2020 who have not already completed the requirement***. See 70 O.S. § 1210.199. Districts should indicate whether graduating seniors have completed the CPR requirement or been exempted from it on the student transcript.

For seniors receiving this exemption, print the following on the student's transcript: "*Student received an exemption from CPR/AED instruction typically required for graduation purposes.*"

### What about assessments required for graduation?

The U.S. Department of Education has granted a waiver to Oklahoma to forego federally required state tests in grades 3-8 and high school for the 2019-20 school year. Requested by Superintendent Hofmeister, the waiver includes the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics test each year in grades 3-8, science in grades 5 and 8, and the College Career Readiness Assessment (e.g., ACT/SAT) for ELA, mathematics and science in grade 11. As a result, the aforementioned tests will not be administered, materials will not be shipped to schools and training for test proctors for this year is unnecessary. Districts that were preparing, through staff development or otherwise, for the administration of the statewide assessments should cease such activities. Additionally, the Oklahoma School Report Cards – which are calculated with data from federally required assessments and other indicators – will be suspended for the 2019-20 school year.

For seniors receiving this waiver, print the following on the student's transcript: "*Student received a waiver for CCR assessment participation typically required for graduation purposes.*"

### What if a senior was unable to make up the U.S. history assessment missed as a junior?

**NEW:** The OSDE took an emergency rule to the State Board of Education on March 25, 2020, to allow the agency to provide a medical exemption for state assessments for all students. As a result, students scheduled to take the U.S. history assessment this year will be granted a medical exemption due to the coronavirus pandemic. For other assessment updates, please refer to the most recent [OSDE FAQ](#) and the OSDE [Office of Assessments webpage](#).

For seniors receiving this exemption, print the following on the student's transcript: "*Student received a medical exemption for state assessment participation typically required for graduation purposes.*"

### If seniors have the combination of earned credits and enrolled courses, are they finished for the year?

The State Board expects all students to participate in the learning opportunities their school is offering through the end of the year. The level and definition of participation is defined by the local school. These students are still subject to the 23 units of required coursework. For seniors, it is



particularly important to engage them in activities and coursework that will prepare them to transition from high school to college or directly into the world of work. Here are a few ways to do that:

- Have senior projects that include reflecting over their schooling experiences from elementary through high school.
- Develop a 5-year career plan including potential earnings, job elevation opportunities, lifestyle considerations, living location and necessary education.
- Propose a plan to re-engage next year’s underclassmen from an “If I were in charge” perspective. What would they do differently? Include school coursework needed to graduate, required electives, scheduling options, budget considerations, etc. What if schooling continued in a distance learning format and students couldn’t go back to campus? What would seniors propose be done?
- Document and submit virtual college tours and job shadow opportunities with reflections.

The goal is to keep seniors engaged and connected until they transition. If they have met credit requirements, what are some other transition activities needed to make the journey more seamless? Have some pieces of the project due in phases. Embed collaborative portions to encourage communication with classmates. Even assign in groups! Be creative, considering the students you have served the last four years – you know best how to reach them.

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## ➤ ALTERNATE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AND CHANGES IN INSTRUCTION AND GRADUATION

### [Brief Summary of Local Authority and Actions](#)

Many boards of education have local policies that require more than 23 credits and/or identify specific courses that are not a part of the state’s list of required courses. These requirements can include such requirements as additional coursework, community service hours or senior portfolios/projects. In these cases, a local board of education can take action to amend a local graduation policy. Any change must still be in agreement with Oklahoma graduation requirements. End of semester final grades should be calculated, reported and transcribed in the school’s student information system.

For districts that choose to maintain local graduation requirements, OSDE encourages allowing alternatives if social distancing and safety measures cannot be maintained and providing seniors sufficient support in completing these requirements. For example:

- Allowing video or other electronic submissions of Senior Project presentations.
- Within current safety and social distancing guidelines, organizing community service opportunities that assist with food and classwork distribution, childcare needs, peer tutoring or providing assistance to at-risk individuals and families.



**What does it mean for a student to be on track to graduate prior to March 25, 2020?**

A student was on track to graduate prior to March 25, 2020, if (1) the credits the student earned prior to March 25, 2020 and (2) the credits the student would have earned for the courses in which the student was enrolled on March 25, 2020, taken together, satisfy the course and credit requirements for an Oklahoma diploma with the appropriate designation. On track would include students who would have earned the diploma by September 30, 2020. See the table below for possible local authority actions based on student on-track status. *This is not a finite list of options for districts. The local education agency has control over grading and awarding of credits so options may differ from district to district.* It is likely in your Class of 2020, you have students who are in the following categories regarding graduation credits:

Student Status	Local Options May Include
Students who currently have attained the district graduation requirements, which include the state-required credits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local school keeps student on pathway to graduation and posts appropriate graduation date and exit code for student at end of school year.</li> </ul>
Students who have completed the state-required graduation credits <i>but have not completed all the district requirements.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local school boards may decide to modify district policy to grant a high school diploma.</li> <li>○ Local school boards could determine that coursework currently completed is sufficient to award credit for the district-required graduation credits.</li> <li>○ As part of a Distance Learning Plan, districts could provide additional learning opportunities that students could complete in an alternate learning environment to meet district requirements/credits for graduation.</li> </ul>
Students who have <b>not met the minimum state-required graduation credits but were on track</b> to meet those requirements through current coursework prior to entering an alternate learning environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Local school boards could determine coursework currently completed is sufficient to award credit for the state-required graduation credits.</li> <li>○ As part of a Distance Learning Plan, districts may provide additional learning opportunities for students to complete in an alternate learning environment to meet state-required graduation credits.</li> </ul>
Students who are further behind in meeting high school graduation requirements and who <b>would not have been able to meet the state graduation requirements</b> with the normal coursework currently taken prior to the end of the 2019-20 school year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As part of a Distance Learning Plan, districts could provide targeted educational opportunities for these students and consider extended-year or summer educational opportunities to complete coursework.</li> <li>○ In the event completion cannot be obtained through summer, school staff should meet with student and family to discuss plans to re-enroll as a 5<sup>th</sup>-year senior.</li> </ul>



### [Military Early Graduation Request](#)

For the 2019-20 school year, a principal may award the number of educational enhancement opportunity days needed by a graduating student to meet military service or postsecondary education enrollment obligations that occur prior to the last day of school due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

### [What about students on an IEP?](#)

As long as students meet what is outlined in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), students must be allowed to graduate. For more information regarding graduation and distance learning for students with disabilities, please visit the IDEA FAQs located on the OSDE [Special Education Services](#) web page.

For compliance questions under the IDEA, including information about timelines and evaluations, related services and alternative dispute resolution (ADR), please refer to the resources found on the Office of Special Education Services home page. Included is an FAQ for meeting the requirements of the IDEA and providing FAPE while instruction is delivered through distance learning. For resources related to Special Education and Distance Learning, please consult the following guidance:

- [Distance Learning for Special Education](#)
- [Virtual IEP Meeting Checklist](#)

### [What about Alternative education students?](#)

Alternative education students have long been afforded flexible scheduling, individualized instruction and an individualized plan that leads to graduation. As long as students remain on track and meet what is outlined in their current education plan, seniors should be allowed to graduate and underclassmen may matriculate to the next grade level.

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## ► CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

Below are frequently asked questions surrounding concurrent enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) has published more explicit information on its [website](#). Because universities and colleges may have unique circumstances and governing boards, the OSRHE has published responses to coronavirus/COVID-19 [by institution](#). Please refer to this guidance and always maintain communication with the institution(s) your district uses to provide college instruction for your high school students.

[If a school district closes but the postsecondary institution continues delivering coursework, is a high school student expected to continue to participate in the postsecondary course if enrolled through concurrent enrollment?](#)

Yes. Even though the student is receiving high school credit, the course is ultimately a postsecondary course, and the postsecondary institution has decision-making authority regarding operation of the course. The student should continue to participate in the course, unless specific exemptions are established by the postsecondary institution.



How is a high school student who previously participated in the postsecondary course delivered at a school district location expected to continue to access the course if the school district location is closed?

The student should access the course according to alternative arrangements established by the postsecondary institution. The postsecondary institution should consult with the school district in establishing alternative arrangements for high school students enrolled in a postsecondary course to ensure options are viable and equitable for all high school students.

How should a school district record and report a student that drops a postsecondary course for purposes of supplementary weighting?

The school district should follow regular reporting processes and procedures established by district policy, unless alternative protocols are established by the OSDE.

Can a high school student decide to not continue participating in a postsecondary course?

A high school student may drop a postsecondary course according to the established withdrawal policies of both the school district and postsecondary institution. The school district should work with the student to ensure the student is on track to complete all school district graduation requirements and maintains an appropriate course load.

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## ➤ GRADUATION CEREMONIES FOR THE 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

What do we do about graduation and other activities such as prom?

Except for purposes of state funding and school accountability previously mentioned, any requirements for attendance in order to receive course grades or credit, *graduation or participation in an activity are solely determined at the local school district level*. Participation in activities honoring a student's culminating high school experiences has significant meaning to students and families; however, the safety and well-being of all individuals is of utmost importance. **If an event exceeds the group guidelines of a school's local city or county health department, the event should not take place.** Districts should follow the guidance of the CDC, Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Oklahoma State Department of Education. Please refer to the [FAQ](#) provided by the State Department of Education for additional guidance on graduation, prom and other extracurricular activities. Updates to these FAQs will be made as necessary based on current, relevant and available data. Many schools are considering virtual graduation and end-of-year ceremonies.

Districts can be creative as they honor students' academic achievements. Some ideas are:

- Have students submit pictures of themselves in cap and gown and create a slideshow including postsecondary choices. This can also serve as a make-up college signing day. Visit the [ASCA page for College Signing Day Online](#) tools.
- Have students walk down the driveway or hallway to the tune of your school's graduation march. Join the video clips into a processional. Stream the video on your school's webpage and social media platforms. Reach out to students in your career tech audiovisual programs for assistance.



- Arrange for students wearing caps and gowns to line up in vehicles and parade around town in a processional. This may require law enforcement assistance in blocking off roads. All must adhere to most current social distancing guidelines.
- Share your district's ideas at [Honoring our 2020 Seniors](#).

**NEW:** Can districts open school buildings for students to clean out lockers, desks, get technology, transcripts, diplomas and other personal items?

Yes, under certain circumstances. As Gov. Stitt has indicated, Oklahoma's "Safer at Home" directive is likely to be lifted, at least in part, after April 30. Under the State Board's directive school buildings are closed for general student attendance until the end of the school year, May 8 or later. Any plan to temporarily open school buildings for students to retrieve belongings should be implemented after the directive has been lifted and only for those staff members, students and families who are not particularly susceptible to complications from COVID-19 (those over age 65, immunocompromised or with pre-existing health conditions). Open areas and surfaces likely to be touched should be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned before and immediately after temporary opening of the building. Staff members assisting students or families should wear face masks and gloves whenever possible, and districts should consider monitoring temperatures and disallowing entry to those whose temperature is 100.4 degrees or more. CDC safety guidelines should be observed, including social distancing and prohibiting gatherings of 10 or more individuals. District and school staff should consider setting student visitation by appointment only, staggering the number of students entering the building or delivering items curbside. As a reminder, the State Board's Order permits essential functions, such as building maintenance and continuity of building functions, to be maintained during this time provided CDC guidelines are adhered to. Please refer to FAQs on the March 25, 2020 State Board action.

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## ➤ FINAL GRADING PRACTICES FOR THE 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

If a senior fails a course in which they were enrolled on March 25, 2020, AND they needed the course to graduate, are we required to record the F on their transcript?

No. While this would be a local decision, districts are encouraged to take advantage of the flexibility allowed for the 2020 cohort, leaving the course marked as Incomplete rather than assigning a grade of F. In the event a school awards an Incomplete, a timeline for completion must be established and communicated to the student along with grading implications if not completed on time.

How should grades be assigned for courses that were not completed prior to the school closures on March 25, 2020?

Grading policies are determined by local school districts; however, students should be given every opportunity to achieve a grade designation that reflects a full year's worth of work, and challenges associated with access to distance learning should not negatively impact a student's grade.



Do 5<sup>th</sup>-year graduates who would have earned a diploma at the end of the 2019-20 school year qualify for this additional flexibility?

No. The current flexibility only applies to students in the 2020 graduation cohort. Students who are members of the 2019 graduation cohort or an earlier cohort must successfully complete the high school graduation requirements set forth in the [graduation requirements](#) for their cohort.

Do juniors who intended to graduate after 3 years qualify for this additional coursework flexibility?

No. The current flexibility only applies to students in the 2020 graduation cohort. Students who are members of the 2021 graduation cohort must successfully complete the high school graduation requirements set forth in 70 O.S. §11-103.6; OAC 210:35-25-2.

Please refer to the most recent [Academic Guidance FAQ](#) for specific information regarding grading practices for the 2020 school year on the following:

- How will students earn final grades?
- Can schools freeze grades as they were prior to cessation of operations?
- How will students in Career Tech (CTE) programs earn final credits?
- How will students in Concurrent/Dual Enrollment programs complete courses, and how will credits be issued?
- What do we do about ICAP (Individual Career Academic Planning)?
- Can students “test out” or show competency for credits?

Refer to the [graduation checklist](#) appropriate to the graduating cohort or to state statute [70 O.S. § 11-103.6](#) (OSCN 2020) for detailed graduation requirements.

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## ➤ HELPING SENIORS TRANSITION TO COLLEGE OR CAREER

Spring is the time for counselors to assist students with making final college and workforce decisions as well as finalizing scholarship applications, the FAFSA, athletic eligibility and OK Promise requirements. Counselors should stay abreast of opportunities that may be afforded students with extended deadlines, waived requirements and other accommodations made by our educational partners.

### Financial Aid/Scholarships

- [FAFSA](#) – The 2020-21 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is now available. Check the Federal Student Aid [website link](#) for more information specific to coronavirus/COVID-19 updates and information on [how financial aid works](#). If the student is planning to go to college, counselors should inform families that their help may be needed for students to complete the process.
- [OCCF](#) – Oklahoma City Community Foundation Scholarship luncheons scheduled March 31 through April 3 have been cancelled. Email [j.schwager@occf.org](mailto:j.schwager@occf.org) if you have reviewer questions or contact [scholarships@occf.org](mailto:scholarships@occf.org) for more general information. However, seniors may still access this resource for scholarships.



- General Scholarships – Due to social distancing guidelines, in-person recognition programs and ceremonies have been canceled, including those scheduled to be held on your campus or other location. Assist students with contacting potential scholarship donors for updated information or modified deadlines. This is a good time to work with students on seeking additional awards, writing their scholarship letters and updating their resumes. It is important to keep students engaged in the scholarship search by recommending they spend at least one hour a day searching for scholarships.

College Search Resources		
Big Future (College Board)	CollegeScholarships.org	Cappex.com
OK College Start	Fastweb.com	Niche.com
Scholarships.com	CareerOneStop.org	ScholarshipMonkey.com/
ScholarshipsAmerica.org	Unigo.com	CollegeExpress.com

### Oklahoma's Promise (OKP)

For the **spring 2020 semester**, courses that apply to the [Oklahoma's Promise](#) high school core curriculum requirements that are assigned a grade of "pass" (or its equivalent) will **not be included** in the GPA calculation for the core curriculum. This waives the calculation rule of assigning the lowest letter grade of D. While the course grade will not be included in the calculation of the core curriculum GPA, the course will count toward the required units for the core curriculum as appropriate. Students must still meet the 2.5 core and 2.5 overall GPA requirements. If counselors need to update OKP verifications for seniors, now is a good time. Make a note to check with the OKP office at [okpromise@osrhe.edu](mailto:okpromise@osrhe.edu) or 405-225-9152 for any information on finalizing senior verifications.

### Student Athletes

**NEW:** On April 15, 2020, the NCAA voted to adjust eligibility requirements for Division I and Division II athletes and to provide waivers for items such as virtual recruiting and transcript submissions. Visit the [NCAA site](#) for [specific changes](#) for 2020 student athletes.

- Eligibility— Prospective student athletes should always stay in touch with the collegiate coach/recruiter and monitor their accounts at the [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org) website. Counselors should monitor uploading of final transcripts, stay informed on how the district plans to graduate seniors and check for seniors no longer enrolled in your school and upload their transcripts as well by accessing the [NCAA Eligibility Center district administrator/counselor portal](#). Students who may not meet NCAA eligibility but still desire to play at an NAIA institution should follow the guidelines of their recruiter, coach and the [NAIA site](#).
- Grading—For courses completed in spring and summer 2020 with a “pass” grade, the Eligibility Center will apply the credit earned in those courses toward the core-course requirement. If the core GPA would increase by assigning a value of 2.3 (the minimum GPA to qualify to compete in Division I), that value will be assigned to passed courses. If the 2.3 mark would decrease the student’s overall GPA, the core-course GPA will be calculated



based only on courses with assigned letter grades from other available terms. **This policy will apply to students from all grade levels who have pass/fail grades in NCAA-approved core courses in spring and summer 2020** due to the COVID-19 response.

[How can students visit colleges if the college campus is not open and social distancing mandates are still in place?](#)

While in-person campus tours are on hold, Oklahoma colleges and universities invite students to visit their campuses virtually. OKcollegestart.org has gathered [links to these tours](#) in one location to share with students and families. You **do not** have to log into an OKcollegestart account to access the information. Students can visit an institution's website to see if a virtual tour is available; college recruiters are eager to connect, so contact the college admission office for more options. The [OKEdge](#) website also has resources available for college and career exploration.

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## ➤ COLLEGE READINESS ASSESSMENTS

[What about college entrance and other advanced exams?](#)

Many colleges are waiving college entrance exam requirements for fall 2020 (some are even doing so for fall 2021) enrollment. Many colleges already offered alternative testing options for admission such as Pre-ACT or PSAT so students who have scores can use them where permitted. For general college and career readiness information not related to statewide CCRA, visit the website of each assessment organization for changes in testing dates and registration information. Districts should work with seniors to understand their options and assist them in following newly released deadlines and alternative ways to test according to the testing entity. As with all testing matters, consult with your district assessment staff and test coordinators for information specific to your district and/or site.

- [ACT](#) – As of April 16, ACT is offering summer testing and ACT test online at-home options. ACT is offering digital learning and workforce resources to assist teachers, students, schools and workers impacted by COVID-19. Free Kaplan Live Online ACT Test Prep sessions are being offered April 23, 29 and May 5 for various topics. Visit the [ACT Newsroom & Blog](#) for more details.
- [SAT](#) – March and May test dates have been cancelled. Visit CollegeBoard's [website](#) for more information on test schedules and taking the exam. If you know of students who do not have connectivity, SAT is offering assistance. Advise students to visit [this site](#) to complete a form.
- [AP](#) – The AP Program is offering free remote learning resources and a new at-home testing option. Traditional face-to-face exams will not be administered. Visit the [AP Central website](#) for more information and the full exam schedule.
- [IB](#) – International Baccalaureate plans to cancel examinations scheduled April 30 to May 22. Students will be awarded a Diploma or Course Certificate which reflects their standard of work. Please visit the [IB website](#) for the most current information.

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## ➤ SUPPORTING SENIORS' EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

While academic concerns are of great importance, many seniors and their families feel they have “lost” some of the best parts of their senior year, and many end-of-year senior traditions and rites of passage remain uncertain. Student support staff should explore offering virtual student support services, especially as a systemic way to stay connected with at-risk youth. Relevant resources to help with the design and implementation of a virtual support system include, but are not limited, to:

- [OSDE Counseling website](#) containing additional resources for serving students in the distance learning environment.
- American School Counselor Association’s [guidelines](#), [position statement](#) and [webinar](#) related to providing virtual school counseling support services.
- National Institute on Mental Health’s [child and teen coping strategies](#) for reducing stress related to traumatic events.
- [Guidelines](#) developed by the National Association of School Nurses and National Association of School Psychologists on how to talk with students about COVID-19.

Depending on seniors’ needs, some additional trauma-informed and social-emotional supports schools may want to consider include:

- Offering supervised/staffed digital forums for seniors to connect, manage stress and anxiety, share positives and acknowledge the challenges they are facing.
- Inviting seniors to suggest ideas on how to connect or implement new/different rituals to mirror senior year traditions that may not be possible while current social distancing and safety measures are in place.
- Updating students and families on where basic needs can be met or where supports are located in the community (food, housing support, financial support, etc.). Oklahoma’s [Be A Neighbor](#) project can be a great resource to find local organizations for specific needs.
- Reassuring seniors that colleges nationwide are being asked to provide flexibility with final admission selections, including completion of specific course requirements, to increase support for seniors’ transition into higher education. See the section in this document on [Helping Seniors Transition to College or Career](#) for more on college resources.

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## ➤ FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT PRIVACY

[How does the health or safety emergency exception to FERPA’s consent requirement permit an educational agency or institution to disclose Personally Identifiable Information \(PII\) from the education records of affected students?](#)

Although educational agencies and institutions can often address threats to the health or safety of students or other individuals in a manner that does not identify a particular student, FERPA permits educational agencies and institutions to disclose, without prior written consent, PII from student



education records to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency, if knowledge of that information is necessary to protect the health or safety of a student or other individuals. See 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(I); 34 C.F.R. §§ 99.31(a)(10) and 99.36. For more detailed information of student privacy, refer to the [Coronavirus/COVID-19 FAQ For Oklahoma Public Schools](#) published by the OSDE.

#### [Where can I find more information?](#)

Stay current with updates from the [Oklahoma State Department of Education](#), [Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [Oklahoma State Department of Health](#) and your local leadership.

#### [Questions?](#)

For graduation, academic and other counseling questions, contact [Petra Woodard](#), Executive Director of Academic Counseling.

For social-emotional counseling questions, contact [Beth Whittle](#), Executive Director of Counseling.

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