

Jahmal Mosley, Ed. D.  
Superintendent



**NASHUA**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Gateway to Opportunity*

Garth McKinney, Ed. D.  
Assistant Superintendent

Donna Fitzpatrick, Ed. S.  
Assistant Superintendent

Daniel Donovan  
Chief Operating Officer

April 20, 2020

Good Day Nashua Community:

I hope this letter finds all of you well and in good health.

The decision to move Nashua High School North and Nashua High School South traditional graduations to the virtual was not easy. We recognize this is a special moment for families and students. Each year, families look forward to graduation to mark the end of high school and the start of post-secondary plans whether college, workforce, or the military. My decision to honor the Class of 2020 with virtual graduation exercises is grounded in data and timing.

#### I. Data

Heeding the advice of public health officials, Governor Sununu extended remote learning for the remainder of the school year. At this point, the data is not suggesting that by June it will be 100% safe to congregate in large numbers. It would be irresponsible of me as superintendent, community member, and father to give the Class of 2020 false hopes at best and at worst to schedule a large gathering that could potentially jeopardize the health and well-being for all participating in the graduation. These are hard decisions and they must be made with the collective well-being in mind.

We are sensitive to the data public health officials are reporting, saying we are still combating this virus in New Hampshire and are looking to expand testing for residents. COVID-19 has disrupted our everyday lives and practices. When we know it is safe to gather as a community and public health officials and civic leaders authorize the public to engage in large gatherings, we will return to our normal practices and an in-person graduation WILL take place.

#### II. Timing

Graduation is an extensive event to plan and it is even more challenging when planning is facilitated virtually. We do not want our students to miss the presentation of their diplomas or knowing their class rank; hence, we opted to begin the planning for a virtual graduation as opposed to “rolling the dice” on an in-person graduation knowing that if the data did not turn favorably, then the students would have no graduation ceremony at all. As I mentioned in my video, we will have an in-person graduation even if it means waiting until next year. The Class of 2020 will experience walking across the stage; however, we have to ensure the ceremony will not impact the health of our community at large. I am hopeful and confident that together we will get through these unprecedented and challenging times.

Thank you for working as a community to help our students, families, friends, and neighbors.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jahmal Mosley', is written over a light blue background.

Dr. Jahmal Mosley  
Superintendent of Schools

141 Ledge Street, Nashua, New Hampshire 03060

T: (603) 966-1000 F: (603) 594-4350

[www.nashua.edu](http://www.nashua.edu)