



El Dorado High School Graduation: Frequently Asked Questions...

When is the commencement ceremony?

The ceremony takes place on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 5:00, rain or shine! The stadium gate opens at 4:00pm.

Where does it take place?

The ceremony will take place at El Dorado High School: Bennett Park, Harvey West Memorial Stadium

Will the ceremony be live streamed?

Yes, the ceremony will be live streamed. A link will be posted on the school website the day of the graduation ceremony.

Who participates?

All graduating seniors and mid-term graduates from the 2025-26 school year are invited to participate if they have attended the graduation meetings, signed the appropriate forms, and have not been denied the privilege because of previous discipline problems.

When should the graduates arrive?

All graduates should be in the L.A. Brown Gym by 4:00 PM on Thursday, May 21, 2026. You will have a final rundown with the teacher reading your name and you can review pronunciation with your assigned teacher.

Where will parents, relatives and friends sit?

There are two seating areas, white folding chairs on the track and the home grandstands. If you have paid for a stadium seat(s) through athletics, these are reserved for graduation as well. Tickets are not required to view the ceremony.

What about handicapped seating/parking areas?

An area on the track will be provided for those with wheelchairs. Parking in the upper lot by the field will be reserved for handicapped vehicles ONLY.

What about general parking?

There is limited parking around El Dorado High School. The Markham Middle School parking lot will be open. Also, there will be a free shuttle bus from the El Dorado County Fairgrounds off of Placerville Drive starting at 3:45PM. The bus will be making a loop approximately every 15-20 minutes.

What about pictures?

Bill Smith Photography, a professional photography studio, will be taking portraits of each graduate as they receive their diploma. Each graduate will receive a Bill Smith Photography flier at senior check out. There will also be an active link on our school website or <http://billsmithphoto.com>. You can Prepay for your Diploma Portrait online, or turn your order and payment to the photographer at Graduation.

What about caps, gowns, and announcements?

Every graduate must have an El Dorado blue cap, gown, and tassel to participate in the ceremony. These are available for purchase through Herff Jones. The company offers a variety of graduation extras, however, the only mandatory items are the caps, gowns and tassels. Some students choose to borrow a cap and gown and only purchase a tassel. If you just want to purchase a tassel you can do so in the office with Mrs. Garrett for \$10.00. To order graduation gear after January, please go directly to [Herff Jones website](#). *For those who ordered earlier in the year, the caps, gowns, will be distributed **May 6th at lunch**.* Our Herff Jones representative is Lori Brazil-Arrington and her email is lbrazilarrington@herffjones.com if you have any questions.

What if I have other questions about the commencement ceremony?

Please contact Administrative Assistant Chrystal Garrett at cgarrett@eduhdsd.k12.ca.us 530-622-3634, extension 1025. OR Tara Grudin, Assistant Principal, at tgrudin@eduhdsd.k12.ca.us.

What about yearbooks?

Yearbooks will be distributed the week of May 18th. Yearbooks may be sold out by then, so make sure to order yours now to ensure that you will be able to get one. Go to: <https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A00747500> to purchase online.

When and where will the Junior-Senior Prom be held?

The Junior and Senior Prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th at the Serrano Country Club. Remember, Prom is a semi-formal event. Please adhere to the dress code. Gentlemen: Please wear a shirt with a collar; no athletic wear, jeans, or t-shirts. Ladies: Strapless dresses and/or halter top dresses will be allowed, as long as there is ample coverage.

When is Senior Check Out?

Is Monday, May 18th in the Small Gym. Counseling will provide you a time the week before your check out appointment.

Not sure if your dress meets dress code standards? See Mrs. Grudin or Mr. Gatling