

Fort Bend ISD looks forward to honoring the accomplishments of our graduates each year, as this celebration culminates everything we do to develop students in accordance with the FBISD Profile of a Graduate.

Following revisions to the District's policy related to commencement exercises ([Student Commencement Handbook](#)), and beginning with the Class of 2021, FBISD will expand the opportunity for speaking roles at commencement ceremonies in order to highlight graduates who exhibit and exemplify the FBISD Profile of a Graduate. Below you will find the steps and timeline for selecting graduation student speakers.

Beginning with the Class of 2021, any graduating senior will have the opportunity to apply to address graduates and guests in graduating speaking roles, as long as they:

- Meet all the requirements to graduate and participate in commencement exercises;
- Have no discipline infractions that are associated with academic dishonesty or have resulted in ISS, OSS, or DAEP placement during the school year preceding graduation, and;
- Are a designated Honor Graduate (see EIC Local) or hold a position of leadership on campus.

**Steps for Speaker Selection Process – see [Student Commencement Handbook](#) for more details and rubrics**

- Step 1** Eligible students wishing to deliver the Honor Speech, the recognition and scholarship awards speech, the welcome remarks and the closing remarks during commencement exercises must submit via an online application their written application. See Student Commencement Handbook for specific components of the written application.
- Step 2** The District Screening Committee, comprised of three teachers from each high school campus, appointed by the campus principal, will participate in a blind screening process using the prescribed rubric to identify the top eight (8) scorers from each campus in the written application process.
- Step 3** The individuals with the top eight scores will be moved to the Interview level of the selection process, to be conducted by the campus selection committee.
- Step 4** The Campus Selection Committee, comprised of the Campus Principal, Associate or Assistant Principal, Lead Counselor, and four teachers selected by the campus principal, will conduct the interview level of the selection process. See Student Commencement Handbook for specific components of the interview application process.
- Step 5** The individuals with the four (4) highest scores on the interview will be selected as graduation speakers, with the highest score providing the Honor Speech. The remaining students will be allowed to select his/her speaking role in order of highest score to lowest score.
- Step 6** The assistant superintendent and/or designee will meet with the selected students and his/her parents to review the order of commencement exercises and consequences for not following speaking guidelines

## Timeline

<b>Month/Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>December 16, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Parents of seniors receive information regarding the graduation speaker selection process and the Student Commencement Handbook</li></ul>
<b>January 18-22, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Campus shares Student Commencement Handbook as well as eligibility, application process, and timeline with seniors and parents of seniors</li></ul>
<b>February 15 - March 1, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Online application window is open for eligible seniors to submit their written application</li><li>○ Written applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on March 1, 2021</li></ul>
<b>March 8-10, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ District Screening Committee training held</li></ul>
<b>March 31, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ District Screening Committee - rubrics of written application due</li></ul>
<b>April 5, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Campus Committees receive Top 8 scorers from the interview process</li></ul>
<b>April 6, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Campus informs Top 8 scorers from the interview process of the Interview Application Process and date of interview</li></ul>
<b>April 12-23, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Campus Committee conducts interviews</li><li>○ Four (4) highest scores on the interview will be selected as graduation speakers, with the highest score providing the Honor Speech</li></ul>
<b>April 26, 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The Honor Speaker will be notified no later an April 26, 2021 in writing to the student and his/her parents</li><li>○ The remaining students will be allowed to select his/her speaking role in order of highest score to lowest score</li></ul>
<b>May 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The assistant superintendent and/or designee will meet with the selected students and his/her parents to review the order of commencement exercises and consequences for not following speaking guidelines</li></ul>