

Graduation Ceremonies Update

October 15, 2025

St. Cloud Area
School District



Prepare. Engage. Educate. Empower. Inspire.

Graduation Feedback and Plan

Goal: The goal is to strengthen community trust, improve experience, and reinforce our district's values of safety, belonging, collaboration, and excellence.



Purpose of Graduation

Graduation celebrates academic achievement and personal growth, recognizing students' dedication and adaptability as they prepare for the future. It honors the essential collaboration between students, families, and staff, signifying a shared commitment to a promising future.



Stakeholder Feedback Strategy

Tonight, we will highlight key themes and present findings from the student and family stakeholder data.



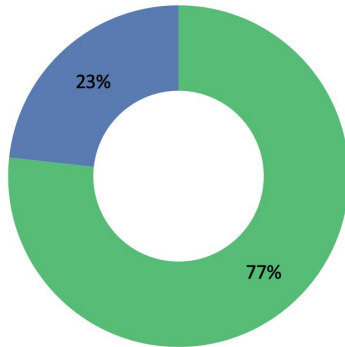
Feedback Themes

- Ensure dignity and recognition for every graduate
- Maintain safety and effective crowd control
- Promote accessibility and inclusion, addressing language, mobility, and sensory needs
- Set clear expectations and enforce standards for noise, behavior, and decorum
- Provide clear communication both before and during the event
- Optimize the venue layout and floor plan for smooth flow and access



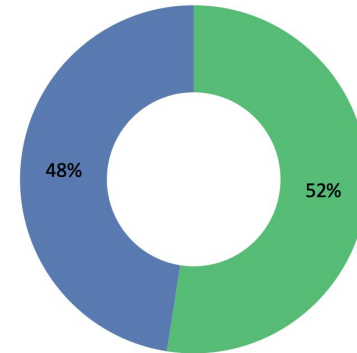
Graduation Location

Students



■ Option A: River's Edge Convention Center ■ Option B: Home High School Campus

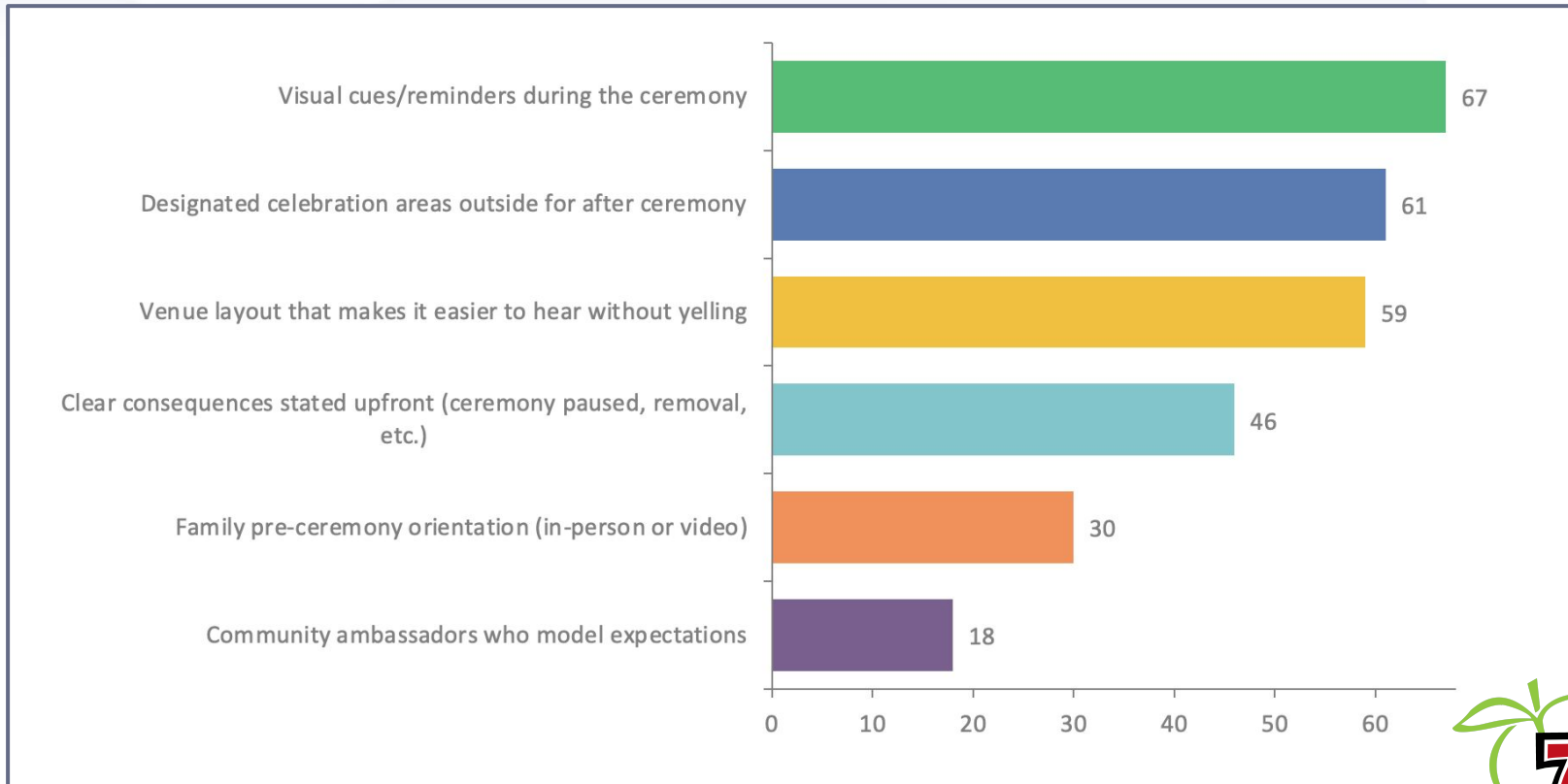
Families



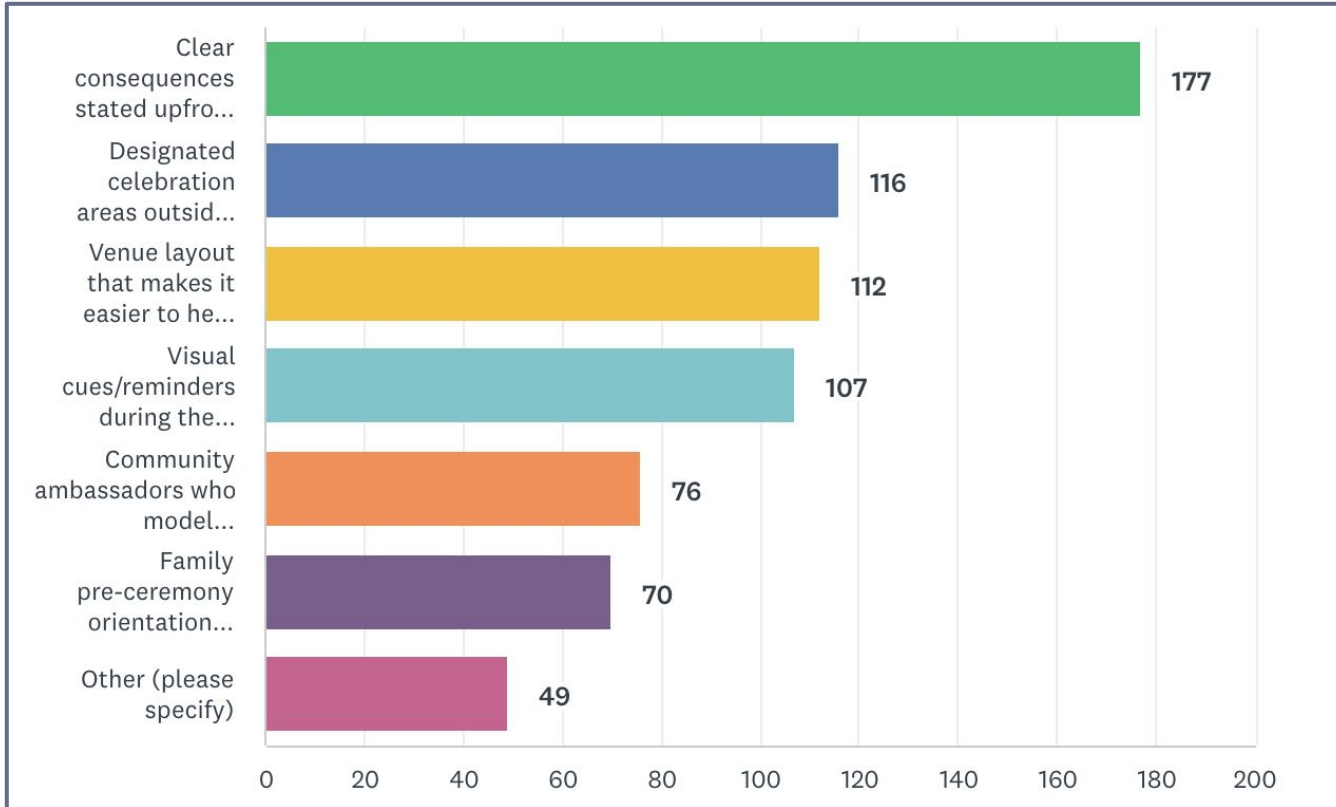
■ Option A: River's Edge Convention Center ■ Option B: Home High School Campus



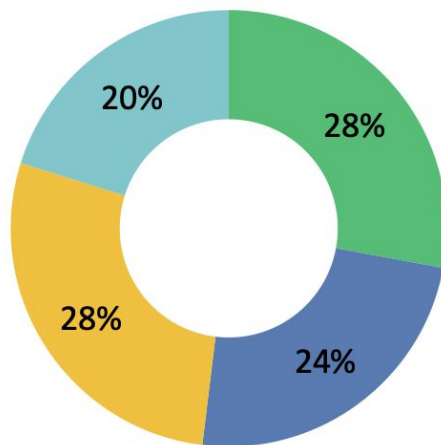
Safety -Respectful Environment -Students



Safety -Respectful Environment -Families



Belonging -Recognition for Every

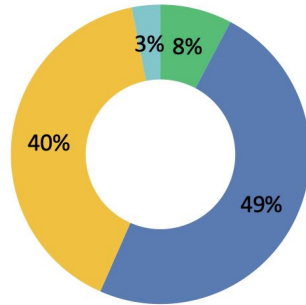


- Hearing my name clearly, knowing everyone in the room can hear it too
- Feeling the energy of my family celebrating, even if it's loud
- A balanced moment—brief cheers so everyone gets recognized
- A big celebration moment after all names are called



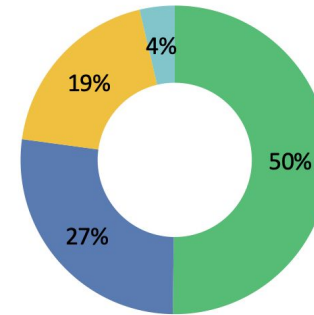
Tickets

Students



- First-come, first-served ticketing
- Equal distribution (same number per graduate)
- Request-based with accommodations for large families
- Lottery system for additional tickets beyond base allocation

Families

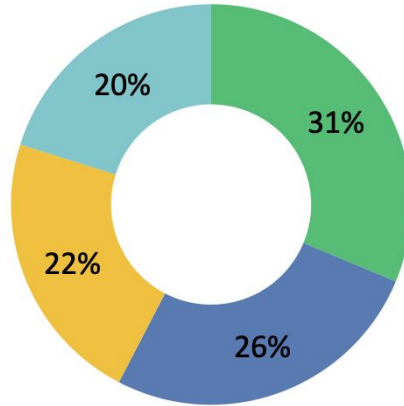


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Venue Layout and Floor Plan

Audience - Families Said

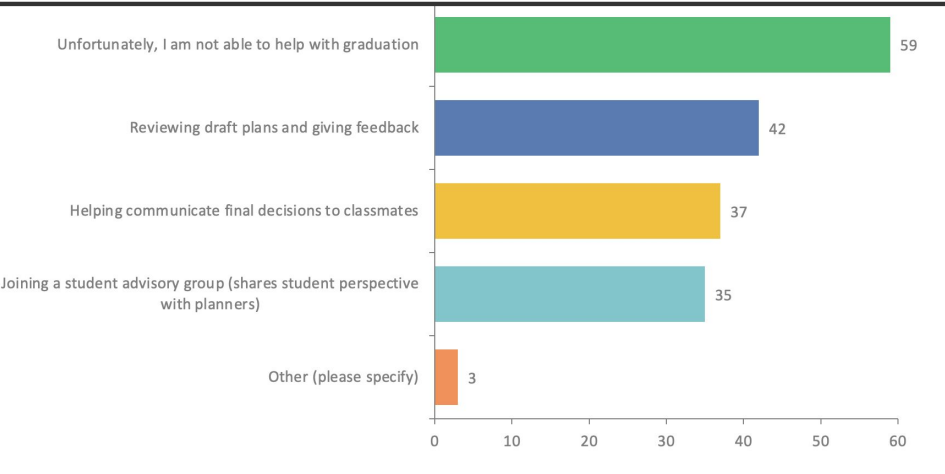


- No preference on layout
- Bring seating closer to the stage (more intimate, easier to see/hear)
- Keep current distance but improve sightlines and sound
- Create multiple viewing angles (seating on sides/around stage)

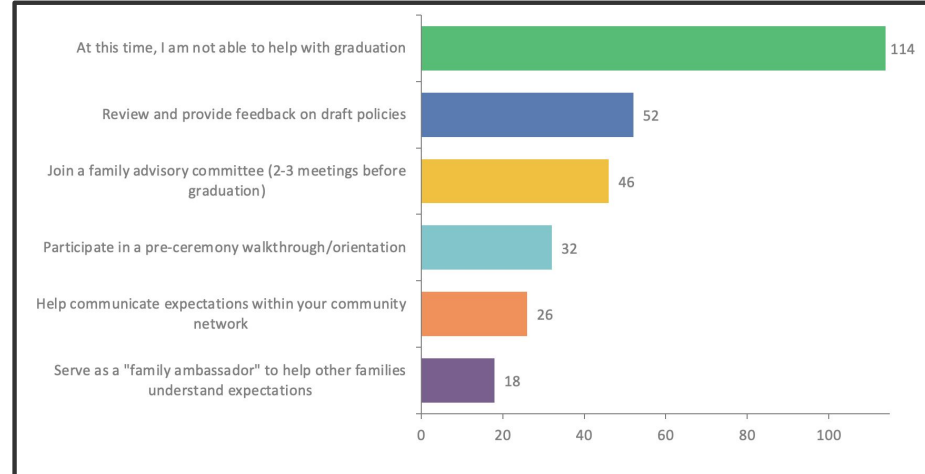


Graduation Support

Students



Families



Graduation Feedback

- Communicate clearly and early
- Set high expectations for a respectful environment
- Keep commitments made related to protocols which support safety
- Increase security and adult presence, to celebrate this milestone
- Make the event accessible to as many as possible
- Consider multiple languages, mobility, sensory needs
- Broadcast on TV's for latecomers so they can "watch" - use multiple spaces if necessary



Next Steps

Decision Making - Consultative

Who will make the decision? Superintendent & District
Administration

When will a decision be made for venue?

Thank you

