



**Board Meeting Date:** 3.18.25

**Title:** 2025 Graduation Update

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenter(s):** Nate Swenson, Assistant Superintendent; Paul Paetzel, Edina High School Principal; and Mike Pretasky, Edina High School Assistant Principal

**Description:** The purpose of the discussion is to provide the Board with an update on graduation planning.

**Recommendation:** No recommendation is being asked of the Board at this time.

**Desired Outcome(s) from the Board:** Please review the attachment and come prepared with your comments and questions.

**Attachments:** [2025 Graduation Update](#)

## **Introduction and Background**

The Edina Public Schools administration has reviewed its graduation ceremony protocols following concerns raised about the 2024 event. To create a more positive experience for the class of 2025, District leaders analyzed feedback from families, conducted a survey, and formed parent focus groups to develop actionable recommendations.

The 2024 graduation at Mariucci Arena faced multiple challenges, including excessive crowd noise, ticketing system failures, accessibility issues, and traffic flow problems. These issues impacted many families' ability to enjoy and participate fully in this important milestone celebration.

This analysis outlines the District's thorough approach to addressing these concerns while maintaining the dignity and celebratory nature of graduation. By engaging stakeholders in the planning process, the administration is working to create a ceremony that balances the excitement of celebration with the respect each graduate and family deserves during this significant rite of passage.

The presentation details the feedback received, specific recommendations from parent focus groups, and the concrete steps being taken to improve the 2025 graduation ceremony. These efforts reflect the District's commitment to creating an inclusive, memorable, and meaningful experience for all members of the Edina Public Schools community.