



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 12, 2020

Hamilton School District Officially Postpones Graduation for Class of 2020

With the scheduled Graduation date of May 22nd less than two weeks away, the Hamilton School District has postponed the event until later this summer. Superintendent of Schools Rex Mitchell cited maintaining the CDC guidelines and Governor's Executive Order limiting public gatherings as the reason for the postponement. "I have learned in my many years of working in the Hamilton School District that it is of the utmost importance for family members to be allowed to attend the graduation ceremony without limitations" he stated today. "I am determined to provide a dignified ceremony that will allow for everyone who would like to attend and celebrate with their graduate." As many districts move to alternative forms of graduation, Mitchell feels it is worth the wait to conduct a ceremony in a traditional manner. "I appreciate how other school districts have been creative with organizing a graduation for their students while maintaining limited attendance and social distancing. I will make every effort to have the ceremony as usual on the football field with a full house of proud relatives and friends."

The plan calls for a date to be set once the Governor lifts the current guidelines and allows for public gatherings that are not limited in size. A minimum of two weeks' advance notice will be given for guests to make plans to attend. On the week of Graduation, a Senior Honors Program will be held on Monday night, Baccalaureate Service will occur on Thursday night, and Graduation on the football field at 8:00 p.m. on Friday night. In the event of inclement weather on Friday night, Graduation will be held at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning on the football field. Inclement weather on Saturday morning will force Graduation inside the HCHS gymnasium where graduates will be given 10 tickets to distribute to their guests. Each graduate will have two specially designated tickets which will allow their holder admittance to Graduation regardless of the time they are presented for entrance into the gymnasium.

"I greatly appreciate the cooperation of Principal Harrison, the HCHS staff, and the Class of 2020 in working through this unprecedented situation. Our Graduates deserve a special night for all their hard work over these past years", Superintendent Mitchell stated. An official announcement from the school district will be made once the date for Graduation has been set.