



Commencement Toolkit

www.FortBendISD.com/Graduation

Contents

- 1 Letter From the Superintendent
- 2 Graduation Schedule
- 3 Know Before You Go
- 4 Programs, Photography, Live Stream
- 5 For Students
- 6 Accessibility & Parking



Fort Bend County EpiCenter

28505 Southwest Fwy, Rosenberg TX 77471

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LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Marc Smith

Dear Class of 2026,

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone! As you prepare to step into the next chapter—whether that path leads to higher education, a career, the military, or new personal pursuits—I encourage you to keep three core principles at the center of your journey: **professionalism, accountability, and communication.**

As graduates of 2026, you embody a generation that is Leveling Up—rising to challenges, embracing growth, and stepping boldly into your future with purpose. These values will help you continue that ascent:

Professionalism: No matter where life takes you, carry yourself with integrity and respect. Showing professionalism means being dependable, courteous, and prepared. It's a powerful way to build trust and open doors throughout your personal and professional life.

Accountability: Your path forward will be shaped by the choices you make. Owning your actions—both your successes and your mistakes—will build resilience and character. Accountability positions you as someone others can rely on and respect.

Communication: Strong communication is essential as you navigate new environments and relationships. Speak with honesty, listen with intention, and collaborate with empathy. These skills will help you build meaningful connections and advocate for yourself effectively.

As you Level Up into adulthood, remember that these values will guide you, steady you, and propel you toward the success you envision for yourself.

With pride in all you have accomplished and excitement for what lies ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marc" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Dr. Marc Smith
Superintendent of Schools

Mark your Calendars!



Graduation Schedule

FRIDAY MAY 29	SATURDAY MAY 30	SUNDAY MAY 31	MONDAY JUNE 1
 <p>9 AM</p>	 <p>9 AM</p>	 <p>11 AM</p>	 <p>9 AM</p>
 <p>1:30 PM</p>	 <p>1:30 PM</p>	 <p>3 PM</p>	 <p>1:30 PM</p>
 <p>6 PM</p>	 <p>6 PM</p>	 <p>7:30 PM</p>	 <p>6 PM</p>

Know Before You Go



IMPORTANT – Graduates will ride school buses together from the campus. The campus will communicate with parents the drop off time. The buses will leave together to bring the students and staff to the venue. After the ceremony, graduates will reunite with their family and friends to go home together.



Tickets are not required. Open seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Should the building reach capacity, venue doors will be closed.



Parking passes will not be needed for the 2026 graduation season. Parking spaces are limited at the venue. It is highly recommended that family and friends ride together to limit the number of vehicles on site. Limited overflow parking will be available once the venue parking lot is full. **Remember to leave room for your graduate to ride home with you.**



Tailgating and picnics are not permitted. Congregating before and after each ceremony is prohibited.



The venue prohibits baby **seats, carriers, or strollers** in the guest seating area due to the limited available space. Strollers brought into the building will be held in the lobby.



No outside food or beverages are allowed at the EpiCenter. The venue's concessions will be open with a limited menu. The EpiCenter is cashless and only accepts major credit and debit cards, along with Apple, Google and Samsung Pay.

Please refer to www.fortbendis.com/Graduation FAQ page or www.fbepicenter.com for more information about prohibited items.

NOTE: Floral bouquets are allowed.

Doors will open 45 minutes to ceremony start time.

Venue Bag Policy

Per the EpiCenter guest policies, guests are encouraged to travel light and refrain from bringing bags. Should you bring a bag, they do permit a bag up to **4.5" by 6.5"**. Clear bags must be no larger than **12" by 12" by 6"**.

Medical and parenting bags are permitted. All bags are subject to security search upon entry.





Programs

Graduation programs will not be distributed at the ceremony. An online version will be available. Look for our signage with a QR code to the online version. Each graduate will receive several printed copies of the program with their diploma certificate at a later date.



Photography

Guests can take photos from their seats. Guests are not allowed on the arena floor. Only Fort Bend ISD-approved photographers are permitted on the arena floor. **Guests may not block or stand in the aisles or stairs to take photos.**

Marc Nathan Photographers, Inc. will capture each graduate's photo when they receive their diploma cover and after they exit the stage. The company will provide graduation photo services for our graduates. There is no obligation to order, and parents may opt-out of receiving emails and/or texts after the first communication. To learn more about registration for graduation photos visit www.fortbendisd.com/graduation.



Graduation Live Stream

Each of the 12 high school graduations will have a YouTube link to their respective live feed. The links and live streams will not be available until the day of each graduation. Live streams of the FBISD graduation ceremonies are **FREE**, and each graduation will remain on the Fort Bend ISD YouTube.

The live stream for each high school will begin **15 minutes before** the graduation's scheduled start time. Links can be found at www.fortbendisd.com/graduation.



FOR STUDENTS

Graduation Practice

Each high school will host a graduation practice with the Class of 2026 to review the graduation ceremony procedures including arrival times, ceremony sequence, safety measures, etc. Your high school will contact you with a date and time of this important practice.

Day-Of Procedures

- Bring your cap and gown.
- Arrive on time to your campus for bus pick up.
- No purses or bags will be allowed.
- We recommend low heel shoes or wedge heels. Be comfortable!
- Have a light meal before leaving your home.
- Remind your family or friends to leave room for you to ride home with them.
- Take a breath and smile, you are almost there!

Accessibility & Parking

Where can I find accessibility parking?

Accessibility parking is available on both the East and West side of the arena. Please display your accessibility tag, and parking attendants will guide you.

Can we drop off elderly and individuals needing ADA assistance closer to the entrances?

Yes, the East and West side of the venue has designated accessible vehicle drop-off areas.

Will there be wheelchairs to carry elderly or individuals needing ADA assistance to their seat?

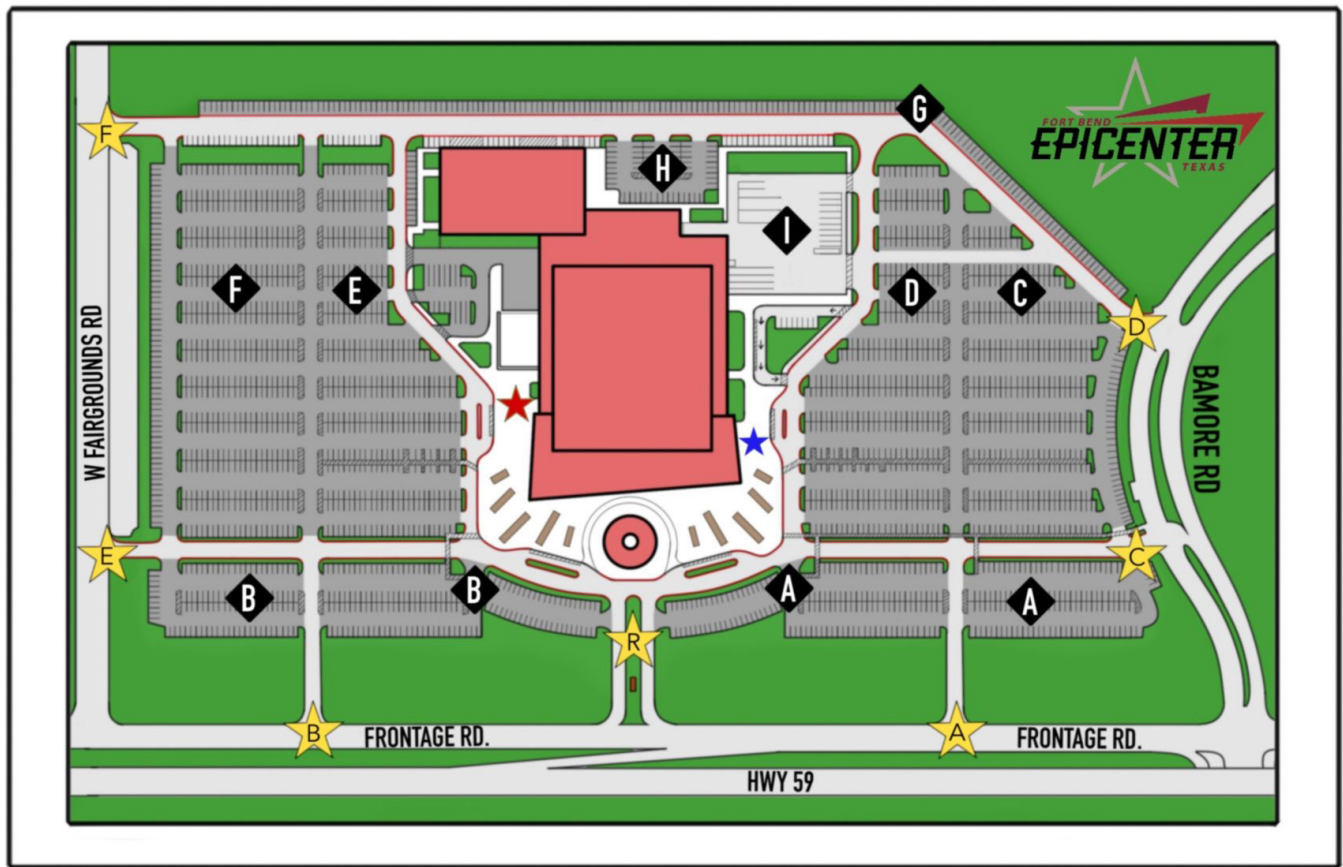
No, the EpiCenter does not have wheelchairs to loan out to guests. Wheelchairs are only provided for medical emergencies.

Are there elevators? Yes, elevators are located near both the East and West entrances of the EpiCenter. Escalators are available as well.

Is there accessibility seating? Yes, there is accessibility seating located on the concourse level of the arena on both the East and West sides. Accessibility seating is available on a first come, first served basis.

Please note all guest seating is located on the second level of the venue. There are elevators, escalators, and stairs to get guests upstairs.

The Fort Bend Epicenter Parking Map



★ Ride Share Drop off / Pickup

◆ Parking Lot

★ Ticket Office

★ Guest Service

