



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY

Patricia Dal Santo, Regional Superintendent

May 8, 2020

Dear Kane County School Students, Parents, Administration, and Staff:

We are in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis across our county, the country and the world. After careful consideration, the Kane County Regional Office of Education and Kane County Health Department are recommending that districts **do not conduct any type of in-person graduation ceremony** based on current levels of COVID-19 activity in Kane County.

Honoring graduating students through virtual events and ceremonies is allowed and encouraged. We have made this difficult decision recognizing the impact this has on our students, families, and school communities. While graduation is an important event celebrating the success of our students, our responsibility to protect the health and safety of our communities, our students, and our staff remains our highest priority.

Although the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health published guidelines regarding options for graduation ceremonies on May 2, 2020, they specified that "Districts should consult with local public health departments, law enforcement, and legal counsel in planning any in-person events." The current level of new COVID-19 cases being identified in Kane County and related hospitalizations and deaths indicate we are not at a point where we can safely bring groups of people together. We continue to experience widespread transmission of COVID-19 in Kane County.

Some districts have postponed their graduation events until later in the summer. The Restore Illinois Plan specifies different phases. We are currently in Phase 2. Phase 2 does not allow for any gatherings. Phase 3 allows for gatherings of 10 or fewer. It is not until Phase 5 that large events are permitted. Each phase is a minimum of 28 days.

At this point, the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan indicates that gatherings of more than 50 people are not allowed until Phase 5 or a vaccine or effective and widely available treatment is available or until there is elimination of new cases over a sustained period of time through herd immunity or other factors.

When our students face obstacles, we challenge them to come up with creative solutions. We encourage you to unleash your creativity to celebrate the achievements of our students.

If you have questions about this recommendation or would like to discuss, please contact the Health Department at 630-208-3801 or the ROE at 630-232-5963. Additional information on COVID-19 prevention and activity in Kane County and Illinois is available at: www.kanehealth.com and www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Patricia Dal Santo
Kane County Regional Superintendent of Schools


Barbara Jeffers
Executive Director, Kane County Health Department