



News Release  
For Immediate Release

### **SPS to Host Virtual Graduation for Class of 2020**

May 1, 2020 - Springfield Public Schools Class of 2020 graduation ceremonies will take place virtually this June, Superintendent of Schools Daniel Warwick announced today.

“We are looking forward to creating a virtual graduation that is as traditional as possible, but that also takes advantage of any unique opportunities that technology affords us,” said Warwick. “We want this to be as special as possible for our graduates.”

Warwick said the difficult decision to part from tradition was based on priorities to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community during the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

“Clearly, we know that gathering thousands of people at Symphony Hall or any other venue is not a responsible thing to do with regard to public health and safety and we have no way of knowing when that kind of large assembly will be permissible,” said Warwick. “Rather than take a gamble by waiting for that time to come or putting our community in jeopardy, we have opted to provide our seniors with the very best virtual commencement ceremony that we can create. We want them to experience a sense of celebration, closure, achievement and be inspired to succeed in their next stage of life.”

The school district has paired with its long-standing partner Focus Springfield, the City’s community media center, to produce the ceremonies. “Focus Springfield has been an incredible partner throughout the years and their team has been a tremendous source of leadership and creativity in helping us stay connected with community during the coronavirus pandemic,” Warwick said.

Springfield Renaissance graduate Brendon Holland, who is the production and technology specialist at Focus Springfield, will lead the technical production. “Having one of our own at the helm makes it all the more personal and special,” said Warwick.

Warwick said that as of right now each school’s graduation ceremony is expected to occur on the date originally scheduled. Instead of attending a live ceremony at Symphony Hall, graduates and loved ones will watch the commencement from the comfort and safety of their homes. The broadcast will be available via the district’s website, the district’s Facebook page, YouTube and on Focus Springfield Channel 15.

Further information about the Springfield Public Schools Commencement Ceremonies for the Class of 2020 will be forthcoming as they are made available and high schools will be communicating directly with seniors.

*Springfield Public Schools holds eight separate graduation ceremonies. They are listed here along with their previously scheduled ceremony date: The Springfield Conservatory of the Arts (June 1); John J. Duggan Academy (June 2); The High School of Commerce (June 3); The Springfield Renaissance School (June 4); Roger L. Putnam Vocational-Technical Academy (June 8); Springfield Public Day High School, Liberty Preparatory Academy, Gateway to College at Springfield Community Technical College, Gateway to College at Holyoke Community College and Springfield High School (all June 9); Central High School (June 10) and The High School of Science and Technology (June 11).*