



To the Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) of
 a Graduating Senior of Akins Early College High School
CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION NEWSLETTER

April 15, 2024

Principal, Mike Herbin, 841-9900
 Associate Principal, Manuel Garcia, 841-9900
 College Advisor, Claudia Arrellano-Ferretiz, 841-9900
 Registrar, Tesi Treviño, 841-9900
 Registrar, Raquel Martinez, 841-9900
 Parent Support Specialist, Connie Miralrio, 841-9900

ACADEMY

ABL2E Academy-
 Green Tech Academy-
 AHA Academy-
 New Tech Academy-
 Social Services Academy-
 STEM Academy-
 Early College High School Academy-

COUNSELORS

Ms. Katherine De Leon, 841-9900
 Ms. Margarita Moreno, 841-9900
 Ms. Jaime Garcia, 841-9900
 Ms. Belinda Garces, 841-9900
 Ms. Jennifer Moczygemba, 841-9900
 Ms. Elsa Ringgenberg, 841-9900
 Ms. Christine Hankins, 841-9900

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Ms. Melinda Van Horn, 841-9900
 Mr. Ruben Sarinana, 841-9900
 Ms. Jennifer Dawson, 841-9900
 Dr. Susan Thames, 841-9900
 Mr. Tyson Williams, 841-9900
 Ms. Carman Wissel, 841-9900
 Dr. Manuel Garcia, 841-9900

All the parents of senior students are receiving this newsletter. If your daughter or son is a **candidate** for graduation on **Tuesday, May 28th, 9:00am**, please read this newsletter. If not, please disregard this newsletter. All the information contained in this newsletter will be distributed to seniors' English classes in May. We want to make sure that you are aware of this important information. Please call Dr. Garcia, Associate Principal, the appropriate assistant principal and/or counselor if after reading this, you still have questions regarding your child's graduation ceremony. If your son or daughter is not planning on attending the graduation, please contact, our head registrar, Ms. Tesi Treviño at 841-9900.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Apr. 16th- Herff-Jones delivers graduation materials, P-329/330
- Apr. 26th- Submit Senior Check-off Forms for May events
- Apr. 27th - Senior Prom at The Longhorn Alumni Center, 7pm-10-30pm
- Apr. 30th – ACC Graduating Seniors’ Chancellor’s Reception, Shoreline Church North, 5pm-8pm
- May 3rd – Senior Breakfast for college-bound seniors, 9:30am-11am, theater
- May 15th- Panoramic Picture in the Courtyard, 9:05am & Meeting with seniors in Theater, 10:00am
- May 17th– ACC Graduation for ECHS Graduates, Cedar Park Events Center (Only for graduates receiving Associates Degrees)
- May 17th– Return Chromebooks & Pick up Cords at Gym
- May 28th – Akins Graduation, Burger Stadium at 9:00am
- June 4th – Pick up actual diplomas from Akins High School from 9am-12pm & 2pm-4:30pm

GRADES

Your son or daughter needs to touch base with each one of his or her teachers and continue to do so until grades are determined. If there are any questions whether a class is needed for graduation, please call your child's counselor immediately at the numbers above. **Seniors in danger of NOT graduating will receive notice**

and parents will be informed. If you have any concerns about how your son or daughter is doing in a class, please call your child's counselor and assistant principal. It is highly recommended you contact the teachers directly, too. You may also visit our website at <https://akinsechs.austinschools.org> and click on "Staff Directory" to find a teacher's email address and/or classroom phone numbers.

ACC CREDITS

If your son or daughter has been taking one or more classes at ACC that are needed for graduation, he or she must hand deliver the ACC transcript to our registrar, Ms. Tesi Treviño at 841-9900 or Ms. Raquel Martinez at 841-9900. If your child waits for it to be sent to Akins High School, it may be too late for him or her to graduate. Send materials before **Wed., May 15.**

For more information about the Class of 2024, please visit the Akins website: <https://akinsechs.austinschools.org>. On the drop-down menu for STUDENTS & scroll down to "GRADUATING SENIORS" to get to the all the SENIOR DATES.

CAPS & GOWNS (HERF JONES)

It is never too late to order caps and gowns. Most students have already ordered their caps and gowns. In the event, that this has not happened, please contact Herff-Jones immediately at (800) 837-4235 or visit their website at www.herffjones.com. They will be at Akins on the day of graduation at the Burger Stadium.

CREDIT BY EXAM/CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Students taking a credit-by-exam or a correspondence course through UT or Texas Tech, need to know that the final grade from that course must be in the registrar's office by May 10th. Students are responsible for obtaining the grades and hand delivering these to Ms. Treviño or Ms. Raquel Martinez by that date.

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES RESULTING IN NCs

Texas Law prohibits receiving credit for a class in which a student has been absent more than 10% of the time unless the student makes up the absences. If your child has more than 5 unexcused absences in a class for this or any previous semester, he or she will receive "no credit" or an "NC" in that class. If the class is required for graduation, he or she will not officially graduate until the absences have been made up. The student may be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony at the discretion of his or her assistant principal but will not receive a diploma or transcript until the absences are made up. Please have your child check with his or her assistant principal now to be sure. Absence totals have been reported or reflected on each report card.

GRADUATION DETAILS

Graduation is a solemn ceremony to honor the culmination students' academic work with a high school diploma. **Graduation is set for Tuesday, May 28th at 9:00am at the Toney Burger Stadium.** The Burger Stadium is located at 3200 Jones Rd, Austin, TX 78745. **Graduating seniors will need to enter through the side of the stadium (on the Jones Rd. side) by 7:30am.** After arriving, they will immediately assemble under the stadium seats.

GRADUATION EVENT SHOWN ON AISD TV & LIVE STREAMING

The graduation ceremony will be on AISD TV and social media live-streamed such as YouTube and Facebook. (Check the AISD website www.austinisd.org for more information)

PARKING

Families & friends can park at Burger Stadium. It is free and available on a first-come first serve basis. AISD is running shuttle buses from the Akins High School parking from 6:30am-8:30am. Please visit <https://www.austinisd.org/graduation/free-shuttle>. This is the recommended way to get to graduation for parents and family. After graduation, parents who rode the shuttle buses may return to Akins High School. Parents may choose to park at the Stadium instead.

THINGS NOT TO BRING

The following items are prohibited as people enter the Toney Burger Stadium: **ONLY CLEAR BAGS are ALLOWED. Read about the Clear Bag Policy.**

Prohibited Items:

- Disorderly conduct
- Food & Drinks (except water)
- Alcohol may not be served on AISD
- Noisemakers on air horns
- Balloons, confetti, silly string
- Beach balls, streamers
- Firearms or explosives, weapons
- Wandering away from the designated or restricted areas
- Backpacks or large bags
- Banners, large signs, or unattended strollers
- Smoking/Vaping
- Laser pointers
- Littering
- Use of drones
- Powder
- Glitter (thrown/worn)

Graduating seniors should **NOT** bring purses, cameras, backpacks, coolers, banners, signs, flags, balloons, beach balls, noisemakers, or any other such items. Cell phones should be left with parents in the audience. Failure to comply with the guidelines may result in ejection from Burger Stadium. We would not want to ask anyone to leave the ceremony because of a disruption or failure to comply. **Please remember that this is the graduation of the entire Class of 2024 not just your child's. Please be respectful of this.**

WHAT GRADUATES SHOULD WEAR

Akins High School caps and gowns are required outerwear. **Students should remember to show up with cap and gown in hand.** They should **NOT** wear them on the way into the stadium. We will ask them to put their caps and gowns on there. **Messages on caps, gowns, and/or shoes are not allowed.** This includes no flowers, leis, money necklaces, mardi gras beads, flags, chains, LED flashing lights, etc.

All graduating seniors must dress appropriately and professionally for this formal event. No flip flop sandals, tennis shoes, and/or jeans are allowed for graduation. Students must follow the AISD Code of Conduct at this event.

The area where Seniors line up is not secure; therefore, no items can be left as the area is not monitored. Please wear shoes that are appropriate for the occasion (no tennis shoes or flip-flops). Remember you will need to walk up a ramp, across the stage, downstairs, and back to your seat so your shoes should be comfortable.



NOTE: The administrator has the final discretion and authority of whether a graduating candidate is in violation of the graduation day's dress code policy.

PARENT DIRECTIONS

Only graduates may enter through the Jones Road side of the stadium. Parents will be allowed to start entering the Stadium after 8:00am. The ceremony starts right at **9:00am**. All graduates are expected to remain seated and in attendance through the end of the ceremony. **After commencement** is over, parents should **meet their graduates in the parking lot.**

Please be advised that noisemakers, horns, etc. are not permitted at graduation.

IN THE EVENT IT RAINS

In the event of inclement weather, the graduation ceremony will be moved into the Burger Arena, which has limited seating. Akins seniors will receive only **8 tickets** each for family members and friends due to the seating capacity of 5,000.

STUDENT DIRECTIONS

Graduating seniors can car pool and park at the stadium's parking lot. Once there, enter by

Jones Rd **by 7:00am**. Assemble under the stadium's seating. Do not bring purses or personal items including cell phones. Leave those items with your parents.

To Graduating Seniors:

As you enter the stadium, you will NOT have your your cap and gown. It will be on your arm. Tassels go on the right side of your right eye until after you have graduated. Because there is no formal rehearsal, we have only a few minutes to assemble almost 600 students and explain procedures. You will line up alphabetically. Look for alphabetical lists on the center aisle posts. A teacher/sponsor will assist you in finding your placement within the row, and he or she will report absent students to the registrar.

PHOTOS

Keep it Digital photographer will capture the student's acceptance of the diploma and copies will be available for purchase. The photographer will send order information and a proof directly to you through the U.S. mail. You will have one card for **Keep It Digital** (512-217-3177) and another card with your name for the reader.

OBLIGATION LIST

If students are on the campus obligation list, they must clear these before receiving the actual diploma. This includes clearance from owed library books, activity accounts from a campus organization, Chromebooks, and chargers.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PHYSICALLY-IMPAIRED GUESTS

Mobility-impaired guests who need a shuttle bus from Akins Early College High School will need to call Senaida at (512) 841-9900, Ext. 71215 to ensure a wheel-chair accessible bus. The **Burger Stadium** meets ADA requirements. There will be designated areas for wheel chair accessibility. Call the **Burger Center** at (512) 414-0469 if you have any questions about special accommodations.

ASL INTERPRETATION

Families needing ASL will be seated in a designated area for enhanced viewing. Please notify AISD staff at the entrance of the facility that you need ASL seating.

ACTUAL DIPLOMAS

Actual high school diplomas will not be given when students go up on the stage. The diplomas will need to be picked up at Akins High School on **Tuesday, June 4th** from 9am-12pm & **Thursday, June 6th** from 9am-12pm & 2pm-4:30pm. Ms. Treviño and/or Ms. R. Martinez, our registrars.



TSI TESTING & FINAL TRANSCRIPTS

There is TSI Testing for graduated seniors in the summer. See Summer TSI testing schedule. Final transcripts will be processed over the summer. Remember once you graduate you will not have access to Naviance after graduation so ordering transcripts must be done through the Registrar's office. Seniors should make sure they provide a personal email address to the Registrar's office as AISD student emails through Naviance will be inaccessible after graduation.

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Graduation Dates for Austin ISD High Schools		Location
Wednesday, May 22	Garza Independence , 6pm	AISD Performing Arts
Friday, May 24	Austin HS , 9am Eastside HS , 1 pm Ann Richards HS , 4:30pm	Burger Stadium AISD Performing Arts AISD Performing Arts
Tuesday, May 28	Akins Early College HS 9am Crockett Early College HS 12:30pm LBJ Early College HS 4:00pm Northeast Early College HS 7:30pm	Burger Stadium Burger Arena Burger Arena Burger Arena
Wednesday, May 29	Bowie HS 9am Travis Early College HS 12:30pm Navarro Early College HS 4pm	Burger Stadium Burger Arena Burger Arena
Thursday, May 30	Anderson HS 9am LASA HS 12:30pm McCallum HS 4pm	Burger Stadium Burger Arena Burger Arena



Special Thanks to the Akins Graduation Committee:

Ms. M. Van Horn, *Administrator*
 Ms. C. Arellano-Ferretiz, *College Adviser*
 J. Rodriguez, *ECHS Project Specialist*
 Dr. M. Garcia, *Administrator*
 Ms. T. Treviño, *Registrar*
 Ms. R. Martinez, *Registrar*