

2026



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION GUIDE





Quick Note from the Venue

To the Class of 2026 Graduates, their Families, and Friends:

Congratulations! We are excited to share your upcoming special moment with you at NOW Arena as you all celebrate this wonderful milestone!

This graduation guide has been prepared to answer common questions you may have as you attend the upcoming ceremonies at our venue. We hope you all have a **GREAT** experience at the NOW Arena from the moment you step through our doors. Please acquaint yourself with the following information to make your visit as seamless as possible.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

–NOW Arena Team



Table of Contents

General Information.....	4
Graduation Schedule of Events	5
Parking Information and Directions	6
Security Checks.....	7
Tickets and Seating.....	7
NOW Arena Frequently Asked Questions.....	8 - 9
Information for Individuals with Disabilities	10
Premium Seating Opportunities - Suite Rentals	11
Graduation Flowers	12
Where to Meet Your Graduates Following the Ceremony.....	12
Hotel Accommodations	13
Information for Graduates and Faculty/Staff	14



General Information

The **NOW Arena** is situated in Prairie Stone Business Park, immediately north of the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) and west of Illinois Route 59.

Address

NOW Arena




5333 Prairie Stone Pkwy
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
Telephone Number: (847) 649-2270

Website

<https://nowarena.com>

Social Media Handles

Tag us in your photos on graduation day!

-  **Facebook:** Facebook.com/NOWArena
-  **Instagram:** @NOW_Arena
-  **X:** @NOW_Arena



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Graduation Schedule of Events

Friday, May 15

Harper College*

Doors open at 1:30pm
Ceremony begins at 2:30pm

Hoffman Estates High School

Doors open at 6:30pm
Ceremony begins at 7:30pm

Saturday, May 16

Dundee Crown High School*

Doors open at 9:00am
Ceremony begins at 10:00am

Hampshire High School*

Doors open at 1:00pm
Ceremony begins at 2:00pm

Jacobs High School*

Doors open at 5:00pm
Ceremony begins at 6:00pm

Sunday, May 17

Warren Township High School*

Doors open at 9:00am
Ceremony begins at 10:00am

Mundelein High School*

Doors open at 1:00pm
Ceremony begins at 2:00pm

Palatine High School

Doors open at 6:30pm
Ceremony begins at 7:30pm

Monday, May 18

Conant High School

Doors open at 6:30pm
Ceremony begins at 7:30pm

Tuesday, May 19

Fremd High School

Doors open at 6:30pm
Ceremony begins at 7:30pm

Wednesday, May 20

Schaumburg High School

Doors open at 6:30pm
Ceremony begins at 7:30pm

Thursday, May 21

Libertyville High School*

Doors open at 6:00pm
Ceremony begins at 7:00pm

Friday, May 22

Stevenson High School

Doors open at 3:30pm
Ceremony begins at 5:00pm

Saturday, May 23

South Elgin High School

Doors open at 7:00am
Ceremony begins at 8:00am

Elgin High School

Doors open at 10:00am
Ceremony begins at 11:00am

Bartlett High School

Doors open at 1:00pm
Ceremony begins at 2:00pm

Larkin High School

Doors open at 4:00pm
Ceremony begins at 5:00pm

Streamwood High School

Doors open at 7:00pm
Ceremony begins at 8:00pm

Sunday, May 24

Elk Grove High School*

Doors open at 9:00am
Ceremony begins at 10:00am

Prospect High School*

Doors open at 1:00pm
Ceremony begins at 2:00pm

Rolling Meadows High School*

Doors open at 5:00pm
Ceremony begins at 6:00pm

Tuesday, May 26

Wheeling High School*

Doors open at 6:00pm
Ceremony begins at 7:00pm

Wednesday, May 27

Hersey High School*

Doors open at 6:00pm
Ceremony begins at 7:00pm

Thursday, May 28

Buffalo Grove High School*

Doors open at 6:00pm
Ceremony begins at 7:00pm

Sunday, May 31

New Trier High School

Doors open at 1:30pm
Ceremony begins at 3:00pm

*Suites Available

Parking Information and Directions

NOW Arena Address

5333 Prairie Stone Pkwy
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192

There are 3,200 on-site parking spots at NOW Arena. The lots are accessible off of Hoffman Blvd, and Pratum Ave (see map below). Once on property, police and parking attendants will direct you to the closest lot.

Parking for all graduation ceremonies is **FREE** and is available on a first come first serve basis.

DIRECTIONS

From the East

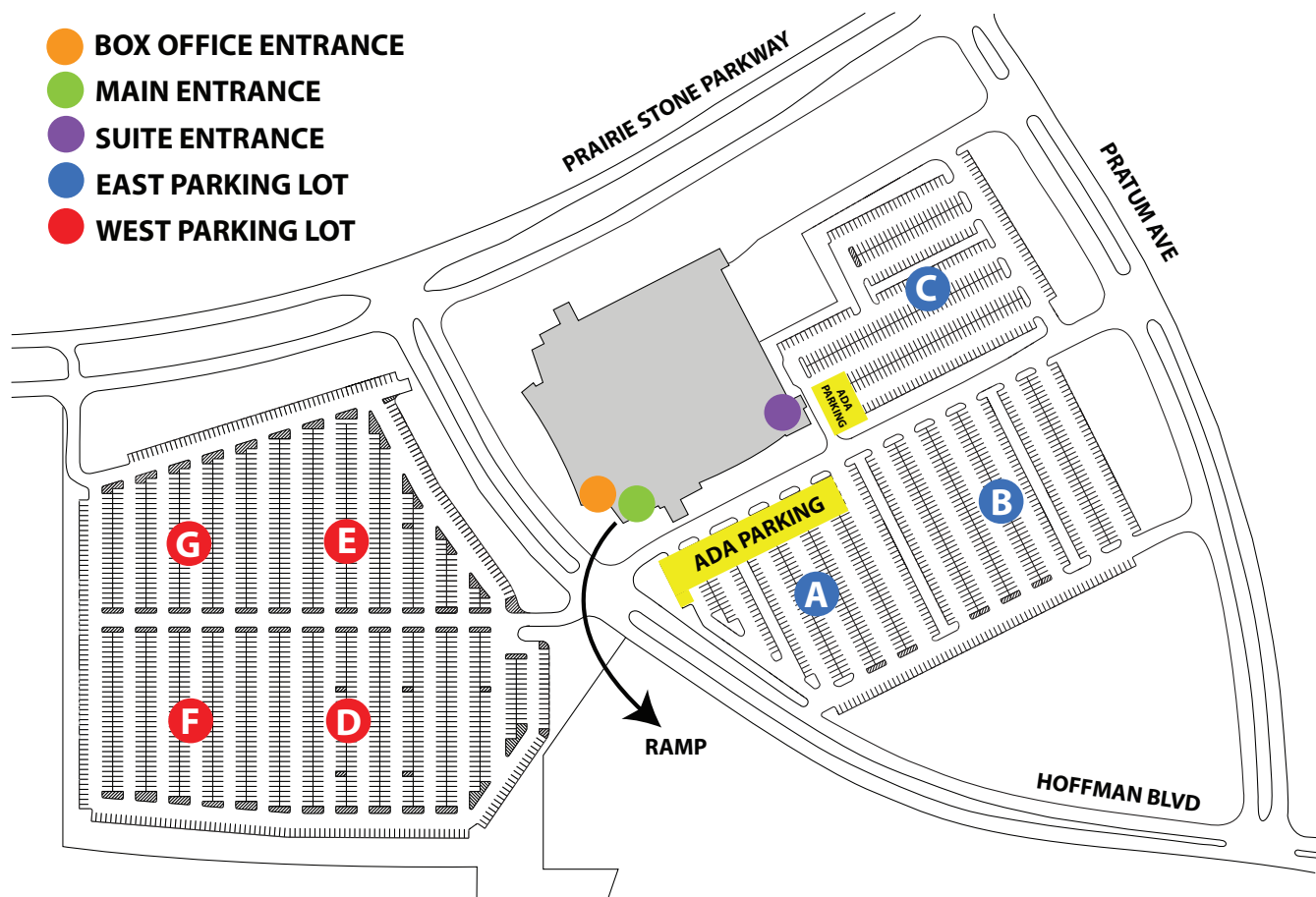
For all patrons coming from the east, take I-90 West (The Jane Adams Tollway) to the New Sutton Rd. (Route 59) exit and go straight. The Building will be on your right.

Alternate route from the East

Patrons can also take I-90 West (The Jane Adams Memorial Tollway) to the Beverly Road exit (past the Route 59 exit). Turn right on Beverly Road and turn right again on Prairie Stone Parkway. The building will be on your right.

From the West

Patrons coming from the west, take I-90 East (The Jane Adams Memorial Tollway) to the New Sutton Rd. (Route 59) exit. Turn left onto New Sutton Rd. and go north to the next traffic light. At the light, make a left turn into Hoffman Boulevard. The building will be on your right.



Security Checks

Prior to entering the building, graduates will pass through metal detectors. We ask that graduates keep their gowns unzipped during this security screening.

Screening will also be enhanced at the main entrance for guests. We recommend that guests leave any unnecessary bags at home. This additional security should not substantially affect or delay accessing the arena.

Doors will not open early so please plan accordingly and plan for all weather. **Page 5** lists door times for all graduation ceremonies.

Outside food & beverages are **NOT** permitted inside NOW Arena.

Prohibited items include balloons, noisemakers, and beach balls. Please visit <https://www.nowarena.com/faqs> for a full list of prohibited items.



Each guest will be allowed to carry in one (1) clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC bag that does not exceed 12" x 6" x 12" or one (1), one-gallon clear plastic bag. In addition to a clear plastic bag each guest will be allowed to carry in one (1) small clutch that does not exceed 4.5" x 6.5". Diaper bags (w/ a child 3 and under) and bags carrying medically necessary items will be allowed after a visual inspection inside the bag is completed by security.

Tickets and Seating

Please contact your graduate's school directly for ticketing information. Tickets will not be sold or distributed at the NOW Arena Box Office.

Guest seating is general admission on a first-come first-served basis. However, some seating is reserved and varies school by school. Guests interested in sitting together should arrive together.

Saving seats is **NOT** permitted.

NOW Arena Frequently Asked Questions

What time do doors open for each ceremony?

Please reference pg. 5 for your specific ceremony door time. Due to facility operations and procedures, under most circumstances' doors are not able to open prior to their published times. Please take this into account before leaving your vehicle during poor weather conditions.

What is NOW Arena's bag policy?

NOW Arena does not allow backpacks of any kind or bags larger than 12" x 6" x 12" inside the arena. Guests who bring backpacks or large bags will be asked to return them to their car before entering the building.

Can I bring baby strollers into the arena?

Baby strollers are **NOT** permitted in the seating areas but can be checked at the NOW Guest Services prior to the ceremony. We do encourage leaving these in your vehicle.

Are balloons allowed inside the arena?

Balloons are **NOT** permitted inside NOW Arena.

Are flowers allowed inside of the arena?

Wrapped flowers are allowed inside of the arena to be given to graduates after the ceremony. Vases are **NOT** permitted. Flowers are available for purchase on-site for each ceremony at NOW Arena. Please reference **page 13** in this guide for further information.

What is the temperature inside the arena?

Guests should be made aware that the inside temperature is much cooler than outside, and they should plan to bring a jacket or sweater.

What Items are Prohibited Inside NOW Arena?

- Signs, posters, or messages on any garment with explicit language, profanity, or derogatory characterization directed toward any person
- Determination of appropriate messaging is at sole discretion of NOW Arena
- Fireworks
- Laser pointers, laser products of any type, or whistles
- Poles/selfie sticks
- Backpacks, large bags, or sealed packages of any kind (including gifts for performers)
 - Maximum bag size allowed is 12"x16"x12"
- Animals except for service animals
- Bottles, cans, or coolers
- Outside food or beverages (exceptions are made for medical reasons, baby food, and reasonable children's snacks such as crackers, raisins, juice boxes, etc.)
- Alcohol, marijuana, or other federally prohibited drugs
- Outside noisemakers
- Weapons including firearms, bats, knives, Tasers, or anything the NOW Arena staff deems dangerous
 - In accordance with the Illinois' "concealed carry" law and the right for private entities to ban handguns on their premises, firearms and other weapons of any kind (including sticks, poles, etc.) are strictly forbidden on the premises of NOW Arena.
- Bikes, skateboards, hover boards, or any other wheeled device unless medically necessary

NOW Arena Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)

Can cameras/recording devices be brought into the arena?

Specifically, for graduations, patrons can bring their own cameras and video recording devices. Photographs and video are permitted as long as patrons do not block any other patron's view. Tripods are **NOT** permitted.

What if I get hurt or someone needs medical attention?

First aid is located on the main concourse behind section 111. Paramedics will be available on-site throughout the ceremony. If medical assistance is required, notify the nearest NOW Arena representative.

Can I re-enter the arena if I walk outside?

Once admitted inside the arena, guests are not permitted to exit and re-enter and may not access the graduate line-up and graduate seating areas.

Where is the lost and found located?

Lost and Found is located at the Guest Services office on the southwest main concourse behind section 111.

Is there an ATM located inside NOW Arena?

A NOW Arena ATM is located on the concourse behind sections 104 and 111.

Where are the restrooms located?

Restrooms are located throughout the concourse.

Can I smoke at NOW Arena?

NOW Arena is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is prohibited on all university owned, operated, leased, and/or controlled properties including NOW Arena. Smoking is defined as inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or other inhalant device in which tobacco, tobacco substitute, or other material is smoked. This extends to e-cigarettes and vaporizers.

What forms of payment does the NOW Arena accept?

NOW Arena is a cashless arena. We do accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, Google Pay, Apple Pay, & Samsung Pay.

Will concessions be available for purchase?

Select concession stands around the NOW Arena concourse will be open for each ceremony.

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Information for Individuals with Disabilities

ACCESSIBLE PARKING

For patrons with mobility needs, ADA parking is available in the east lot only.

ADA parking is limited, so the arena will reserve additional spaces adjacent to the ADA parking during graduations; however, space is still limited and provided on a first-come first-served basis.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

The NOW Arena does not have a designated drop off location.

ADA ENTRY

For liability reasons, the NOW Arena does not provide wheelchairs or wheelchair escorts. Any guests with mobility issues are advised to plan accordingly including renting a wheelchair from a third-party vendor.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GUESTS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

Please reach out to your individual high school if accommodations are needed.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GUESTS WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENTS

Guests should use the ADA ramp located west of the main entrance of NOW Arena. Once guest is inside the arena, there will be signage for seating locations and staff will help direct the guest and one companion to an accessible seating section.

Accessible seating is located on the concourse level inside the main arena. First-come first-serve accessible seating is available for only the guest with a mobility impairment and one companion. The rest of the party will need to sit in GA seating inside the arena bowl.

Medical and event staff cannot escort patrons to and from their vehicles via wheelchair.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GUESTS WITH VISION IMPAIRMENTS

Please reach out to your individual high school if accommodations are needed.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR GRADUATES WITH DISABILITIES

Graduates who use a wheelchair, motorized scooter, service animal, walking cane, white cane, sign language interpreter, or assistive listening devices, have hearing or visual impairments, or need special accommodations should contact their individual school directly for accommodations.



Premium Seating Opportunities - Suite Rentals

Watch your graduate walk across the stage from the privacy of your own suite!

Celebrate your child's graduation from the privacy of your own suite with your closest family and friends! Graduation suites start at just \$450 for ten guests and we have options that can accommodate up to fifty.

Suites are available to book online at NOWArena.com. If you prefer to talk to someone directly, please fill out our suite form at NOWArena.com/premium-experiences and a premium seating representative will get back to you.

Suites are available to rent in advance of most high school ceremonies at NOW Arena. Please check the schedule of events to see if your school participates.



Graduation Flowers

Fabbrini's Flowers will be on-site for each ceremony offering flower bouquets for sale.

Where to Meet Your Graduates Following the Ceremony

Following each ceremony, graduates will exit through Door 4 on the northwest corner of the arena and proceed to Hoffman Blvd where they will meet their friends and family.

Please meet your graduate at Hoffman Blvd outside the NOW Arena.



Hotel Accommodations

NOW Arena Preferred Hotels

Need a place to stay? See below for a list of our preferred hotels.

Reservations must be made directly with the hotel.

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson

2280 Barrington Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
847-744-5110
<https://bit.ly/CountryInnNOWArena>

Hyatt Place Hoffman Estates

2750 Greenspoint Parkway
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
847-839-1800
<https://bit.ly/HyattPlaceNOWArena>

Restaurants

Jimmy's Charhouse

2290 Point Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60123
847-783-0200

Rookies All American Pub & Grill

4607 W Higgins Rd
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192
847-645-0005



Rosati's

www.rosatispizza.com

2026



Information for Graduates and Faculty/Staff Entrance

Entrance Information

Graduates and faculty/staff will enter through Door #11 on the southeast corner of the Now Arena. Parents, families, and guests will **NOT** be permitted inside this entrance.

Security Checks

A security check will be conducted for all graduates and faculty/staff entering the arena via walk-through metal detectors. Please reference the list of non-permitted items on **page 8**. Students are **NOT** allowed to bring in any bags with them.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF

2026

The logo for NOW Arena features the word "NOW" in a stylized, rounded font with a white outline. A green horizontal bar is positioned below the letters "O" and "W". A yellow sunburst icon is centered above the "O". To the right of "NOW" is the word "Arena" in a white, sans-serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located above the "A" in "Arena".

NOW[®] Arena

now[®] Arena

