



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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May 17, 2021

Memorandum

To: Superintendents
From: Catherine Truitt, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Subject: Executive Order 215 and Graduations

Superintendents,

In light of [North Carolina Executive Order 215](#), issued by Governor Roy Cooper, on May 14, 2021, I wanted to reach out to provide some clarification as it pertains to graduation ceremonies of which many of you are in the midst of arranging.

As you know, masks continue to be required in schools, childcare settings, camps, prisons and other public health settings.

Masks continue to be recommended for unvaccinated people and anyone in large crowds. Limitations on mass gathering and requirements for social distancing are no longer in place.

As a result of this new Executive Order, high school graduations may have full capacity with no masks and no social distancing. However, the [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services](#) (DHHS) still strongly recommends masks for all unvaccinated individuals attending large, crowded events and continues to encourage social distancing in these settings.

We will continue to work with NC DHHS as health plans evolve in order to better serve you. Thank you for the work you do for North Carolina students and for your continued leadership in your districts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Truitt".

Catherine Truitt

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