



Stellar Leadership Academy

A Miami-Dade County Public Charter High School
7900 NW 27th Ave. Suite F-1 Miami, FL 33147 P: 305-693-2273 F: 305-693-8016
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Angel P. Chaisson, Principal

Graduation Status Letter **June 2025 Potential Graduates** **Graduation FAQ's**

ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATION CEREMONY

Am I eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony?

All students must meet all of Florida's public high school graduation requirements specified in Sections 1003.4282 and 1002.3105, Florida Statutes (F.S.), to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Pursuant to s.1008.22(3)(c)2., F.S., students with disabilities working toward a standard high school diploma are expected to participate in statewide, standardized assessments. State law, however, provides for a waiver of statewide, standardized assessment results for graduation purposes for students with disabilities whose abilities cannot be accurately measured by the assessments.

Moreover, any student who has met all graduation requirements to receive a standard diploma, **except** for passing the required assessments, **MUST** have a signed M-DCPS Certificate of Completion Conference Form (FM-7652) on file **AND** have completed the final senior meeting with the grade-level administrator to participate in the graduation ceremony on Friday, June 6, 2025.

Any student who is internally or externally suspended from school during the time of the graduation rehearsal or graduation ceremony will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

All school obligations, including fees, fines, and items to be returned or repaired, must be cleared by Ms. L. Williams and paid for by Ms. I. Medina before graduation rehearsal.



GRADUATION

Where is the graduation ceremony taking place?

The location is:

**Miami Northwestern Senior High School Auditorium
1100 NW 71st Street
Miami, FL 33150**

When is the graduation ceremony?

The graduation ceremony will take place on Friday, **June 6, 2025**.

What time is the graduation ceremony?

The graduation ceremony will begin promptly at **10:30 a.m.**

What time do I need to arrive for the graduation ceremony?

All graduating seniors must arrive at **7:30 a.m.**, be dressed appropriately, and have caps and gowns in hand.

What happens if I am late to the graduation ceremony?

If you are late for the graduation ceremony, you will be placed at the end of the line and announced out of alphabetical order. If you are late and all graduating seniors have already walked and taken their seats, you will NOT be allowed into the auditorium.

What do I wear to the graduation ceremony?

Please see the Senior Graduation Information and Dress Code.



Who can I invite as my guest to the graduation ceremony?

All graduating seniors will receive six (6) tickets. Each family member or friend is considered one (1) guest and must have a ticket to enter. Therefore, only six (6) people (invited guests) can attend per graduating senior. Children six years of age and under do not require a ticket to attend.

May I invite additional guests to attend?

Yes, additional tickets must be reserved and are for \$30.00 each. These tickets must be reserved between **May 23, 2025, and June 4, 2025**. If these tickets are reserved and not purchased, the student will be obligated to pay for each reserved ticket and will NOT be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony unless all obligations are met before **June 5, 2025**. Any unpaid obligations, fees, or fines must be paid and cleared up before the graduation ceremony rehearsal.

How can guests view the graduation ceremony from an alternative location?

The graduation ceremony will be available for distance/streaming viewing. Those interested in watching may retrieve the information from the school's website on **June 5, 2025**.



What time do doors open for guest seating?

Auditorium doors open promptly at **9:15 a.m.**

What time do doors close?

Doors will close at **10:20 a.m.** Guests arriving late will not be allowed to enter the auditorium until all graduating seniors have been seated. To minimize disruption to the graduation ceremony, late-arriving guests will be seated in the seating area closest to the entry doors.

GRADUATION CEREMONY ETIQUETTE

What is expected of me and my guests during the graduation ceremony?

While recognizing the importance of the graduation ceremony, Stellar Leadership Academy maintains high standards of conduct for students and guests. Graduating seniors and attending guests are requested to be respectful of the formality of the occasion and refrain from disruptive celebrations. To ensure that all fellow graduating seniors' names are clearly heard by the audience, it is requested that applause and other forms of student recognition and personal celebrations be withheld until after all graduating seniors have received their diplomas.

Is there a dress code for attending guests?

All guests are requested to dress appropriately for the occasion. While formal dress is not required, modest attire is expected to reflect the significance and formality of the occasion. Examples of casual attire considered **inappropriate** for this occasion include t-shirts, cut-off tops, and body-revealing clothes. Additionally, guests are expected to comply with the rules, regulations, and conduct codes that apply to the normal operating procedures for school events. The school principal and designees have the authority to request the removal of anyone who is disruptive or fails to follow established procedures.

The following are general guidelines provided for guests.

- As graduation is more formal, it is better to replace whooping and hollering with applause.
- Life's milestones deserve everyone's full attention. Turn off your cell phones and resist the urge to talk or text until the ceremony has concluded.
- Guests are to remain seated until the last graduating senior receives their diploma so that they feel properly acknowledged.
- No guests are allowed in the area where the graduates line up for the processional.
- Do not block or stand in the aisles or ramps to take pictures.
- No helium balloons, air horns, or laser pointers are allowed.



PHOTOGRAPHY

- The school's official photographer is **Encore Photography and Drone Video Productions (954) 529-7878**.
- The group/class photograph will be taken on the day of graduation, **June 6, 2025, at 9:45 a.m.**
- The school will notify the graduates when the photos are ready for pickup.
- Graduates/Parents/Families can place an order for any picture or number of copies directly from the photographer.
- Parents/Families/Friends will not be permitted on the stage during the ceremony.

GRADUATION REHEARSAL

Where is the graduation rehearsal?

The location is:

**Stellar Leadership Academy
7900 NW 27TH Avenue, Suite F-1
Miami, FL 33147**

When is the graduation rehearsal?

The rehearsal dates are **June 4, 2025, and June 5, 2025.**

What time is graduation rehearsal?

The time is **7:30 am – 11:30 a.m.** Any graduating senior who is not in compliance will not participate in the graduation rehearsal. **No Exceptions!** Participation in the rehearsal is a prerequisite for participating in the graduation ceremony.

What happens if I am late?

If you are late to rehearsal, you will not be permitted to participate.

What happens if I do not participate in the graduation rehearsal?

All graduates must attend graduation rehearsals for the full duration. Attendance is mandatory at rehearsals unless waived by the principal. Work schedules must be arranged to permit full attendance at each practice. If you do NOT show up and do NOT participate in the graduation rehearsal, you will NOT be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

What dress attire do I wear to the graduation rehearsal?

Graduating seniors must follow the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Stellar Leadership Academy's Student Code of Conduct policies. Stellar Leadership Academy's faculty and staff



reserve the right to prohibit a graduating senior from attending practice if they are dressed inappropriately, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Can family and friends watch the graduation rehearsal?

No, only graduating seniors and staff of Stellar Leadership Academy are allowed during rehearsal.

What happens after the graduation rehearsal?

Students are dismissed from rehearsal at **11:30 a.m.**

CAPS AND GOWNS

Do I wear my cap and gown to graduation?

All graduating seniors are required to wear a cap and gown to the graduation ceremony. Caps and gowns are available for purchase from Stellar Leadership Academy.

How do I wear my tassel?

Tassels are to be worn on the right front quarter of the cap.

Can I decorate my cap?

There will be no decorated caps allowed. If you choose to decorate your cap, you will be required to purchase another one before you are allowed to walk the stage.

Senior Graduation Information and Dress Code

To preserve the dignity and honor of the graduation ceremony and Stellar Leadership Academy, a dress code will be instituted. Please refer to the details below.

Dress Code: All graduating seniors are expected to adhere to the dress code rules and regulations outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.

Ladies' Attire:

- Tasteful dress, blouse, skirt, or dressy pant outfit. Dark blue or black colors are preferred.
- Dress and skirt lengths must comply with the dress code policy, which requires the hem to be at least 2 inches below the knee.
- For safety reasons, ladies are required to wear low-heeled shoes or flat shoes.
- No athletic shoes, no flip flops, no sandals, and no house shoes (slippers) are allowed.
- No jeans, shorts, or T-shirts of any type are allowed.
- Dress attire with any graphics or wording is NOT allowed.



Men's Attire:

- A dress shirt, dress pants, and an appropriate tie are required. Dark blue or black colors are preferred.
- Dress pants must be worn in accordance with the dress code policy, which requires them to be worn at the waist with a belt.
- Dress shoes with matching dress socks are required.
- No athletic shoes, no flip flops, no sandals, and no house shoes (slippers) will be allowed.
- No jeans, shorts, or T-shirts of any type will be allowed.
- Dress attire with any pictures or wording will NOT be allowed.

Cap and Gown:

- All graduating seniors must wear the Stellar Leadership Academy's purchased cap and gown at the graduation ceremony.
- The cap will be worn with the top as flat as possible – NOT at an angle.
- The gown MUST be pressed (free of wrinkles) and neat. **Caution:** Use an iron with very low heat.
- **The tassel will be worn on the right side of the head and moved at the time notified within the graduating ceremony.**

Consequences

- All graduating seniors who are inappropriately dressed will be sent home to change, pulled from the line, or NOT be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony. There will be **No Exceptions!**
- Any graduating senior not adhering to the behavior guidelines, either on stage or while on the graduation floor, will have their diplomas withheld and may be escorted out of the auditorium. **No Exceptions!**
- Students should not use mobile devices; texting or playing games while seated during the graduation ceremony is strictly prohibited. Any student in violation will have their diploma held and may be escorted out of the auditorium. **No Exceptions!**

Miscellaneous

- No air horns or signs are permitted.
- Seating is first-come, first-served. Please inform your family members that they may not reserve seats, but family and invited guests of graduating seniors will be seated next to each other if available seating. Social distancing may be considered.
- A graduating senior may not draw special attention to themselves as they walk across the stage. Any student who does so will have their diploma withheld and may be escorted out of the auditorium.
- Please plan to meet your family members near their cars. Loitering at the facility is prohibited. There may be another graduation scheduled after this one, and we want to respect their time.



Graduation Fees & Payment

The total payment amount is \$100.00

Payment(s) should be given to Ms. Medina, School Registrar, on or before each deadline!

If you are planning to participate in the 2025 Stellar Leadership Academy graduation ceremony, the graduating senior must make a total payment of **\$100.00**. The payment covers the costs of the following items: cap and gown, tassel, diploma cover, cords, invitations, admission tickets, graduation keepsake gift, as well as overall expenses needed to hold the event. If a graduating senior is not going to participate in the graduation ceremony, the graduating senior will pay **\$30.00**. The payment covers the cost of the diploma cover, official transcripts, and any additional fees.

To pay the graduation fee, you must receive approval from Dr. Kemp.

If the full payment is not made by the **final payment deadline of June 4, 2025**, a student may not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Method of payment: CASH ONLY
(NO CHECKS, CREDIT CARDS, OR MONEY ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED)

