Following Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards's directives to close all public schools and to practice social distancing as a way to curb the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), schools may opt to hold virtual graduation ceremonies or host a ceremony at a later date in the summer. Below are resources to assist schools with virtual celebrations for students.

Diploma and Seal Orders
Diploma orders received by the March 6 deadline are on schedule to print and be delivered for on time graduation. All received diploma seal orders have been mailed and should be arriving on time.

Graduation Eligibility
Schools can provide options that can help seniors meet credit requirements via distance learning options, online coursework, written work packets, project-based learning, portfolios, or work-based learning (where current high school course standards align with a student's job). There is Regulatory Flexibility Guidance on senior course credit and graduation.

Virtual Graduation
If holding a virtual graduation ceremony, there are some considerations:
● Some students, families, friends may be prevented from participating/viewing due to technical issues such bandwidth and/or hardware compatibility.
● Some students, families, friends may have a lack of access to the Internet and/or hardware.
● Consider and secure the legal documentation required to allow students to be videoed and/or publicly viewed or images shared by the school/school system. This is often done at the beginning of each school year via an opt in or out form. View a sample.

Options to ensure access:
● Video streaming options that allow you to broadcast your event live via social media work best, as they have larger capacities for access.
● Have call-in options for those who don't have Internet or hardware access.
● Ensure any video options are compatible with smart phone applications.
● Use a streaming method or virtual meeting room service that is compatible with multiple operating systems (Windows, Android, Mac, and iOS).
● Record the ceremony to share with students after the ceremony.
● Have a practice ceremony and technical staff to assist students/attendees with access issues.
● If utilizing a meeting room, assign entry codes or mandate registration for participation to avoid having access issues due to platform capacity.

Ideas to make the ceremony more personal:
● Video the speeches of esteemed guest speakers and honor graduates to stream.
● Create a slideshow of students being recognized for honors awards and scholarships.
● Create a slideshow of graduates, perhaps in cap and gown, to show when announcing names to award diplomas.
● Utilize student talent in creating presentations/videos to showcase the graduates.
● Send a video link of the ceremony to students and post to the Internet and/or on social media.

Streaming Services
Ceremonies can be streamed via video or held in a virtual meeting platform. While school systems may already have a service in place that can accommodate a virtual graduation, below is a list of some popular streaming modalities and

meeting room platforms that could support a virtual graduation event. When choosing it is important to be aware of the modes of access and login capacity that the platform can accommodate. While in-person graduation events are often limited in size due to venue capacity, a link could be shared with anyone who had appropriate access. It is important to ensure that rooms do not fill up and graduates or immediate family get excluded from participation. Most platforms involve a cost, but some offer free trials and can be cancelled at any time, without a time bound contract.

- Google Hangouts Meet: Live streaming for up to 100K viewers within a domain *Contact https://gsuite.google.com/contact/
- HostGator: Offers a fully managed dedicated server with live streaming capabilities for unlimited viewers *Contact: Josh Schmidt at joschmidt@hostgator.com
- InMotion Hosting: Offers a fully managed commercial class dedicated server with live streaming capabilities for unlimited viewers *Contact: John Beebe at johnbe@inmotionhosting.com
- GoDaddy: Provides a platform to users, to manage according to their requirements *Call 866-938-1119
- Zoom: Meeting Room that can support up to 1000 people with preset access *Call 1-888-799-9666
- GoToMeeting: Easy Online Meetings with HD Video Conferencing *Call 1-800-514-1317