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Bcc: Big 3, Others Lose Graduation Venues to Save \$250K
Friday, January 9, 2026 1:15:00 PM
[BCPS Graduation Venue Costs Savings.pdf](#)
[BCPS Graduation Venue Costs Savings.xlsx](#)
Subject: [2025 Graduation Schedule and Locations.docx](#)
Date: [Agreement_Lauderhill.pdf](#)
Attachments: [License_Agreement_Broward_Center.pdf](#)
[Performance_Venue_Agreement_Seminole.pdf](#)
[Use_License_Agreement_NSU.pdf](#)
[Handy_Expenses_to_Date_010826.xlsx](#)
[BCPS Graduation Venue Costs Savings.jpg](#)

Dear Broward County School Board Members

In October you were told you could save \$500K by having schools with fewer than 500 students host their graduations in gyms at Dillard or other locations. My attached analysis finds the savings are significantly less—approximately \$252K. See the 2025 graduation schedule file for schools not listed on the spreadsheet.

Staff did not provide you with the underlying data and calculations supporting their claimed savings so I may have used different assumptions to arrive at my conclusions.

At a time when \$2.6 M is in litigation related to putting staff in a building when empty schools are available, and cabinet and other highly compensated staff have received referendum benefits of approximately \$400K last year and \$200K this year (including fringe), taking \$252K away from your core customers seems like another ill-conceived recommendation.

Board action is only as sound as the recommendations being made, particularly when those recommendations omit sharing information that would likely produce Board action different from what is being recommended. I believe if you had been provided with more detailed information, you would not have given direction to hold graduations in gyms. Please review the attached BCPS Graduation Venue Costs Savings file. I believe there are opportunities to potentially consolidate smaller graduations, and negotiate better terms. NSU is significantly more expensive per event than the Broward Performing Arts Center, but the rationale for selecting one or the other is unclear as HD Perry (Broward Center) would appear to have a larger number of students than any of the schools at NSU.

The following language appears in the graduation venue executive summaries:

Alignment to 2027 Goals and Guardrails This item aligns to student-focused outcomes through Guardrail 1: Safety and Guardrail 2: Equity. This item supports safe and equitable venues in which to conduct graduation ceremonies for BCPS graduating seniors.

Measurable Outcome(s)/Return on Investment The purpose of a high school graduation ceremony is to celebrate students who have successfully met the academic and extracurricular requirements for graduation. The ceremony provides a public venue in which graduating students receive their diplomas, marking their official graduation from high school.

The District is in the business of educating students. Graduations are tangible evidence of that task being completed. The School Board needs to do right by ALL students.

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Government must be accountable to the people. The Florida Constitution, which sets forth our rights as citizens of this great state, provides that the public has the right to know how government officials spend taxpayer dollars and make the decisions affecting their lives. The principle of open government is one that must guide everything done in government for its public. [FL Attorney General](#)