

Sample graduation speech

Thank you (name of person who introduced you).

[*Look around the room.*] Graduates ... family members ... and staff, I am delighted to be a part of this triumphant celebration of accomplishments, the (number) graduation ceremony at (name) School.

As I stand before you, I feel the positive, emotional energy filling this place as (number) graduates close one door and open another in life's journey.

Graduates, if you are at all apprehensive about what lies ahead for you, rest assured knowing that you are ready ... your educational foundation is strong, and that you will always be a part of the (mascot name) family.

Parents, as you reflect today at your sons' and daughters' successes, you may be thinking back to their first school bus ride and how choked up you became as you watched them board the bus for kindergarten.

Through the years, you have given them the support they needed to, when the time came, step out on their own, to learn and to challenge themselves.

You worked with the school system to help mold your young adults into the future leaders I see before me here today.

For that, you deserve a round of applause! [*Pause for applause*]

Now, all of these years later, you are here because your children have mastered the academic skills required to graduate and head out in the world to make a life on their own.

Meantime graduates, you may be thinking back to the days when you forced yourself to get out of bed to go to school or athletic practice when you really didn't want to, or when you felt too tired to finish your homework ... but you did!

Even though you may have grumbled at the time, inside you were thankful that your parents were standing behind you, encouraging you to tackle another school day or activity.

And once you arrived at school, you were grateful for teachers and school staff who cared about you, encouraged you and were invested in your future.

You realized that you must work to succeed and felt a sense of pride when you got that "A" or made a difference in your team's victory.

Graduates, no matter how you arrived here at this momentous event today, it has taken discipline, persistence and support — family support, support coming from fellow students, support from the community and support from schools.

I'm sure you've all heard the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," and in this district, we are all part of the education family.

Together, we can all revel in the success of this fine class of 2014. [*Look at graduates.*]

The numbers speak for themselves.

The 2014 class can boast a number of academic achievements, including a graduation rate that is (percent of district above the national average of 79%) above the national average. (number) graduates here today completed at least one advanced placement class, and (number) scholarships were awarded to prestigious colleges and universities such as (name a few).

During this school year, the district received a (designation or grade) rating with (number) teachers dedicated to helping students excel.

(district name) has also been working to make sure every dollar possible is spent on education by (insert two key measures of fiscal responsibility). Every decision we make is done with how it impacts student

achievement. As you see today, the district is proud of success of the Class of 2014 but is working to better these accomplishments with the 2015 class.

“The strongest as well as the most fragile family requires a vital network of social supports,” said former teacher and Family Focus co-founder Bernice Weissbourd.

(district name) is proud to have been a part of the vital network of social supports for every graduate here. We will always be here for you, graduates, parents and community members, constantly working to provide the highest quality, most cost-effective education for each class of the leaders of tomorrow.

As a graduate in 2014, you are heading into the real world during a time filled with financial challenges, but yet the opportunities have perhaps never been greater.

You have been educated in a technological world and you are the generation that will take technology to new and possibly unimaginable heights.

I am optimistic that your generation will also bring solutions to environmental concerns ... or perhaps find cures for debilitating diseases.

So *(tonight/this afternoon)*, as you close behind you the doors of high school, visualize yourself opening a new door leading to new adventures.

Armed with the strong public education you’ve attained ... you are undoubtedly eager and ready to tackle this next phase, whatever it might take you. For some, that will mean college or technical school, some may head into to the workforce and some may opt to serve our country in the military.

Whatever road you take, know that you will always have behind you the support of your entire *(mascot name)* family.

In exchange, our world will change as result of your efforts ... efforts that will be determined by how you choose to follow your dreams.

I challenge you to take risks, set goals and continue your hunger for knowledge.

Find ways to give back to the community and family that have given so much to you.

Also, don’t forget the friends you have made who challenged you along the way. True friendship is a blessing and they, too, are part of the family.

In closing, I would ask the graduates to join me in a round of applause for the family members, friends and faculty who helped them reach this milestone. [*Lead applause.*]

Thank you.