

# Graduating during COVID-19



**3.7 million**

students will graduate  
from high school  
in 2020.<sup>2</sup>

The nation's high school and college seniors are experiencing a disruption to one of life's major rites of passage — graduation. Virtual parties, drive-by parades and yard signs have replaced traditional commencement ceremonies. Celebrations may look different because of COVID-19, but graduates should still feel proud of what they've achieved and honor their accomplishments.

At Lincoln Financial, we understand that some graduates may feel sad or disappointed. Parents, family and friends can help graduates who struggle with the loss of these time-honored traditions.

**Allow graduates to express their feelings of loss and encourage them to reach out to friends and family for support. Help them focus on things they can control, such as making future plans with friends or other post-COVID celebrations.<sup>1</sup>**

In a way, this year's graduates are more connected than ever because of this worldwide experience. And perhaps that can inspire feelings of community and fellowship.

<sup>1</sup> Neighmond, Patti, "With Senior Year in Disarray, Teens and Young Adults Feel Lost. Here's How to Help," NPR, April 19, 2020, <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/04/19/837077850/with-senior-year-in-disarray-teens-and-young-adults-feel-lost-heres-how-to-help>.

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Facts, <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=372>.



Online collaboration improves workplace productivity by up to

**30%<sup>3</sup>**

## A time for reflection

Graduation represents a culmination of years of hard work and perseverance. Graduates take with them the lessons and experiences they learned as they enter the working world.

**The class of 2020 may find that what they've learned the past few months will help them as they move into their next life stage. They may have had some practice using online collaboration tools and various methods to connect with teachers, employers and their classmates.**

In fact, COVID-19 has inspired incredible amounts of creativity in the way we connect with each other. We have found imaginative ways to socialize, celebrate achievements and foster resilience. And we're all learning lessons on future preparedness.

**Graduates can combine these lessons learned during COVID-19 with the lessons they've learned throughout their lives to be ready to face their new world.**

<sup>3</sup> Vardham, Raj, "24+ Workplace Collaboration Statistics for Better Productivity," Go Remotely, March 23, 2020, <https://goremotely.net/blog/workplace-collaboration/>.



**From all of us at Lincoln Financial, congratulations to the class of 2020.**

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