



# Acton-Boxborough Project Graduation

P.O. Box 2414, Acton MA 01720

website: [project-graduation.abschools.org](http://project-graduation.abschools.org) • email: [abprojectgraduation@gmail.com](mailto:abprojectgraduation@gmail.com)

501(c)3 Tax ID: 04-3116032

Dear ABRHS Families,

Graduation is fast approaching—a time of celebration, high hopes and lasting memories!

### Keep Our Teens Safe on Graduation Night

Project Graduation is an all night, drug and alcohol free event offered to our graduating seniors as an alternative to party hopping—keeping graduates and their friends off the roads. The event is an opportunity for seniors to celebrate with all their classmates in a fun and safe environment. Festivities include live entertainment, lots of food, games, commemorative items, prizes, and so much more.

### Donate to Project Graduation, a Community Wide Effort

Project Graduation is sponsored by an independent committee of the ABRPTSO and receives no funds from the school budget. Nearly 75% of the the \$30,000 budget comes from tax-deductible donations made by local businesses and generous parents like you. Your financial support is essential—we can't do it without you!

### NEW THIS YEAR! Place a Personalized Message on the Wishing Wall

Please consider donating \$100 or more (prior to May 15) to display your personalized message on the Wishing Wall at PG 2018. Your message can be for a specific graduate or the entire Class of 2018. This is a great way to support our seniors and Project Graduation. Feel free to share this letter with family and friends or print one from the “Parent Donation” section of our website.

Thank you for helping make graduation night at AB a safe and memorable evening for graduates!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mabardy  
Co-Chair

Tara Matthews  
Co-Chair



## YES! I want to support PG 2018 and keep our graduates safe!

Make a donation online at [project-graduation.abschools.org](http://project-graduation.abschools.org) OR via mail to PO Box 2414, Acton MA 01720

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation Amount:** (Check payable to Project Graduation)  \$50  **\$100**  \$250  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wishing Wall Message:** For donations of **\$100** or more, please see reverse to write your personalized message.

**I'd also like to:**  Volunteer  Donate prizes (e.g. dorm room essentials)  Find out how my business can support PG

# The Origins of Project Graduation

## In the wake of a tragedy, Project Graduation was born.

Project Graduation began over 30 years ago after one especially tragic commencement season in which 7 teenagers from Oxford Hills, Maine died in alcohol and drug related incidents, 5 in one accident alone. In response to this loss, a school-community coalition implemented a program called "Project Graduation," a chemical-free graduation celebration for graduating seniors. During Oxford Hills' 1980 commencement period, there were no fatalities, no alcohol or drug-related injuries, and no arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol.

The first Project Graduation was such a success that by 1986, Project Graduation events were being held at high schools in all fifty states.

## An AB Tradition for Nearly 30 Years.

Acton-Boxborough's first Project Graduation was held in 1989. Since then well over 10,000 AB graduates have participated in the event. Planning an all-night party for the large graduating class at ABRHS is an expensive and time-consuming effort! AB's Project Graduation has always been planned and run by volunteers, and funded by individuals and local businesses.

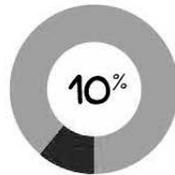
## DUI continues to be an issue among teens.

Thanks to efforts like Project Graduation, the statistics around drinking and driving are improving; however, we know it's still an issue among teens. Project Graduation is one of the ways that we, as a community, can come together to keep our graduating seniors and their friends safe during commencement season.

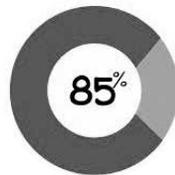
## Thankfully, it's impossible to know how many lives Project Graduation has saved!



of teens admitted to riding with a driver who had some level of alcohol-impairment in the prior 30 days



of teen drivers surveyed said they had consumed alcohol before getting behind the wheel of a motor vehicle in the past month



of those who drank and drove also admitted to binge drinking, which was defined as having five or more alcoholic beverages within the course of a few hour's time

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## Wishing Wall Message

For donations of \$100 or more (prior to May 15), please write your personalized message to be displayed on the Wishing Wall at PG 2018. Your message can be for a specific graduate or the entire Class of 2018. Maximum length is 50 words.

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