

Memo



To: Dr. Karla Guseman
From: Dianne McDonald
Date: February 17, 2026
Re: Weighted Grades for Competitiveness

Summary

The primary purpose of weighted grading is to encourage students to enroll in more rigorous coursework. Overtime, Joliet Township High School's application of weighting dual credit courses equal to Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses has turned inconsistent as new dual credit offerings have become available to JTHS students.

This proposal recommends updating all Dual Credit and select World Language courses to include "Honors" in their titles and provide a weighted grade to ensure our students remain competitive with surrounding districts.

Regional Comparison and Competitiveness

A review of the TREES Region indicates that JTHS is currently an outlier in terms of Dual Credit and advanced coursework:

- **Valley View District 365U:** Automatically applies weighted grading to all Honors, AP, Dual College Credit, and Industry Credential courses.
- **Plainfield District 202:** Weights all core Dual Credit and Honors courses, awarding a 6.1 scale for an 'A' compared to the 5.0 standard.
- **Lockport District 205:** Provides weighted credit for all Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment courses.
- **Lincoln-Way District 210:** Weights Honors, AP, and specific capstone courses such as Occupational Welding 3.
- **Minooka District 111:** Specifically weights advanced World Language courses, including American Sign Language III/IV Honors and French III Honors.

Currently, JTHS weighting for Dual Credit is noted as "inconsistent," which may disadvantage our students during the college admissions process when compared to peers from these neighboring districts.

Recommendations for Implementation

To align with the P-20 Report Synopsis—which recommends that all early college credit coursework be weighted the same as advanced or accelerated courses—the Curriculum Coordinating Council (CCC) recommends the following updates:

1. Course Title and Weighting Updates Update any and all JTHS Dual Credit courses to include "Honors" in the title and grant weighted credit. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **World Languages:**

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- American Sign Language 3 Honors
- American Sign Language 4 Honors
- French 3 Honors
- French 4 Honors
- Heritage Spanish 1 Honors
- Heritage Spanish 2 Honors
- Heritage Spanish 3 Honors.
- **Career & Technical Education:**
 - Accounting 1 Honors
 - Exploring Entrepreneurship Honors
 - Fashion Construction Honors
 - Culinary Arts 1 Honors
 - Consumer Economics Honors
 - Child Development Honors
 - Early Childhood Education Honors
 - Engineering & Architecture 1 Honors
 - Vocational Auto Mechanics 1 Honors
- **Dual Enrollment:**
 - AET MFG 101 Precision Machine Tool Technology Honors
 - AET MFG 111 Numeric Controls Honors
 - AET MFG 115 Blueprint Reading for Manufacturing and Welding Honors
 - NA 101 Certified Nurse Assistant Training Program Honors
 - FIRE FSCI 101 Principles of Emergency Services Honors
 - FIRE/LAW EMS 100 Exploration of Public Safety Careers Honors
 - FIRE/LAW EMS 101 First Responder Honors
 - LAW LENF 101 Introduction to Law Enforcement Honors

2. Transcript Transparency Add "Dual Credit" or "Dual Enrollment" to course descriptions to ensure the rigor of the coursework is clearly communicated to post-secondary institutions.

Rationale for Change

- **Incentivizing Rigor:** Weighting rewards students for taking courses that require more rigorous teacher credentialing and offer greater breadth and depth of content.
- **Equity and Transferability:** Providing weighted credit for these courses increases equity by recognizing the high-level work performed in vocational and dual-enrollment pathways, which are often highly transferable to college.
- **Student Competitiveness:** Aligning our grading scale (where a weighted 'A' equals 5.0 and an unweighted 'A' equals 4.0) with regional practices ensures our students' GPAs and class ranks are comparable to those in the TREES region.

By adopting these changes, JTHS will fulfill the primary purpose of weighted grading: incentivizing college-level achievement without penalizing a student's standing among their peers.

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These recommendations have been reviewed and approved by the Curriculum Coordinating Council. Thank you and please let me know if you have further questions.