

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
CLASS RANKING

EIC  
(LOCAL)

CLASS RANK

In ranking students, including Valedictorian (highest ranking student) and Salutatorian (2<sup>nd</sup> highest ranking student), all semester grades shall be converted to the specified grade point, and then the grade point average (GPA) shall be computed.

RANKING /  
GRADUATION CLASS  
OF 2015 THROUGH  
2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Beginning with the graduating class of 2015, the GPA shall be used to determine class rank as follows:

1. Grades for seniors attaining highest honors including the top ten students shall be averaged no earlier than ten days and no later than five days prior to the graduation date for the purpose of naming the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and the top ten students.
2. An early graduate may be given an unofficial ranking until final completion of graduation requirements and the issuance of final rankings for the class.
3. Ties in GPAs shall be awarded the same class rank, with the exception of Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

VALEDICTORIAN AND  
SALUTATORIAN /  
GRADUATION CLASS  
OF 2015 THROUGH  
2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Beginning with the graduating class of 2015, grades earned for each course in grades 9–12 shall be utilized in determining a candidate's eligibility for Valedictorian or Salutatorian for overall class ranking.

The following guidelines shall apply:

1. The student with the highest GPA shall be the Valedictorian, and the student with the second highest GPA shall be the Salutatorian. All other students shall be ranked in descending order to determine final class ranking.
2. Except as otherwise permitted by this policy, students shall have been enrolled and shall have completed their sophomore, junior, and senior years in the District in order to be eligible for highest honors (Valedictorian and Salutatorian).
3. Students shall have met all requirements under the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program.
4. Beginning with the graduating class of 2015, graduates shall have successfully completed four Advanced Placement (AP) or Pre-AP courses.
5. In case of a tie for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, each student's highest semester averages from four approved Pre-AP or AP courses shall be averaged together to determine ranking of Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

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POINT VALUE /  
GRADUATING CLASS  
OF 2015 THROUGH  
2017 SCHOOL YEAR

The actual point value for each semester grade shall be based on the semester average in that course. No points shall be counted for a failing semester average a course – i.e., for an average less than 70, but the course shall be counted when the points are added and averaged for the semester GPA.

The points earned for each semester grade shall be added. This total shall be divided by the total number of semester grades including any failing grades. The four GPAs for the four years shall be added and divided by four to achieve a four-year grade\_point average.

In the case of students losing credit due to nonattendance at class, no points shall be given for courses attempted; however, the course shall be added when dividing the total number of semester grades.

RANKING AND  
RELATED HON-  
ORS/ GRADUA-  
TION CLASS OF  
2018 AND  
THEREAFTER

Beginning with the graduating class of 2018 and beyond, until such time as a new process is adopted by the Board, the following policy will be used to determine class ranking and eligibility for the honor of being chosen Valedictorian and Salutatorian:

Students shall be ranked within the graduating class based upon a weighted grade point average (GPA). See EIC (REGULATION )

WEIGHTED  
GRADE POINT  
AVERAGE

For the purpose of encouraging students to take more challenging courses, grades earned in TEA- and District-identified advanced courses, Languages Other Than English (LOTE) courses, articulated Tech-Prep courses, and dual credit courses at designated colleges or universities will be weighted. The grades earned in these courses will be converted to a higher weighted value than the values given for general education and prescribed courses. The more rigorous courses taken beyond the graduation requirements will be weighted higher on the point scale. Please reference the weighted point scale. Weighted grade points will be used to compute the GPA to determine a student's honor roll status, rank in class, and status of Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

CLASS SIZE  
FOR RANKING

For purposes of determining class rank, class size will be determined by the sum of all inactive grade 12 students who have withdrawn from the District prior to the end of the given school year and who have completed all coursework and exit-level assessments, combined with all active grade 12 students at the end of the sixth six-week grading period for that same school year.

Ranking shall be assessed at the mid-point of each academic year and again not earlier than 10 days and not later than 5 days immediately prior to the graduation date for the graduating class.

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TOP 10 STUDENTS	All students who have completed 2 consecutive years of study at the District's high school will be eligible to be ranked as one of the top 10 students of the graduation class if other applicable requirements of this policy are met.
DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT REQUIRED	Students must have met all requirements of a high school personal graduation plan that includes the Distinguished Level of Achievement under the state's Foundation School Program and includes one or more endorsements to enable the student to achieve a class rank of one of the top 10 students at the District's high school
EARLY COMPLETION OF GRADUATION PROGRAM	<p>District students who have completed all state graduation requirements within 3 or 3½ years shall be considered for the top 10 highest ranked students of the graduating class and for the honor of the status of Valedictorian and Salutatorian, provided they have attended the District's high school for at least 2 consecutive years prior to graduation and other applicable requirements of this policy are met.</p> <p>District students who have completed their high school program early will be given an unofficial ranking until an official ranking is provided upon final completion of graduation requirements for the current graduating class and the issuance of final rankings for the class.</p>
VALEDICTORIAN & SALUTATORIAN	<p>Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors shall be determined no earlier than 10 days and no later than 5 days immediately prior to the graduation date for the graduating class.</p> <p>The student with the highest grade point average (GPA) under this policy will receive the honor of Valedictorian; and the student with the second highest GPA under this policy will receive the honor of Salutatorian. All other students shall be ranked in descending order to determine final class ranking under this policy.</p> <p>Ties shall be broken in accordance with the tie-breaking provisions of this policy</p> <p>Students who have completed 2 consecutive years of study at the District's high school and who have completed all state graduation requirements within 3 or 3½ years shall be considered for the honor of Valedictorian and Salutatorian of their graduating class if all other requirements of this policy are met.</p>
STUDENTS IN DAEP	Students placed in a District alternative education program (DAEP) during their senior year shall not be eligible to be the Valedictorian or Salutatorian of the graduation class.
CALCULATIONS OF GPA	Final grade point averages shall be calculated by the counselor and principal at least 5 working days before the end of the school

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year. All final grade point averages for the top-ranking students will be reviewed by the Superintendent for final verification.

Class rankings for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be calculated at the end of each semester and will be made available at the beginning of the following semester. Senior class rankings will be calculated again at the end of the first semester for scholarship purposes.

Grades earned in the following programs shall not be used to determine class rank:

1. Remedial summer school programs;
2. Credit by examination;
3. Correspondence courses;
4. Local credit;
5. Independent study as assigned by the principal or counselor;
6. Any non-traditional computer-based software program course; and
7. Grades earned in a non-accredited private school.

Students and parents are encouraged to contact the counselor for information about applications and deadlines for admissions to four-year public universities and colleges in Texas.

WEIGHTED  
GRADING SCALE

The weight scale to be used to compute numerical grades into the mathematically computed score that shall be used to determine honor roll status, GPA, and class ranking may be found in EIC (REGULATION) and in the Student Handbook.

BREAKING TIES

In the event of a tie for the honor of Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian, and/or for a determination of the ranking of the top 10 students of the graduation class, the following rules shall be applied in the following order until the tie is broken:

1. The student with the most college courses completed successfully (i.e., passing grade) regardless of GPA shall win; or
2. The student with the most Advanced Placement courses completed successfully regardless of GPA shall win; or
3. The student with the most math and science courses successfully taken beyond the state requirements regardless of GPA shall win.