



# SOUTH SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: January 24, 2024

Agenda Section: Consent

Agenda Item Title: EIC(Local) Board Policy Update

From/Presenters: Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent

Description: EIC(Local) - Academic Achievement: Class Ranking

Historical Data: HB 3803 permits parents to elect to have their student repeat a high school course in which the student was enrolled during the previous year unless the district determines the student has met all requirements for graduation.

Recommendation: To approve the update as presented.

Purchasing Director and Approval Date: n/a

Funding Budget Code and Amount: n/a

Goal: 1. SSAISD will increase academic achievement for all students and thus closing the gap between student populations in pursuit of advanced performance.

### PROPOSED REVISIONS

#### Consistent Application for Graduating Class

The District shall apply the same class rank calculation method and rules for local graduation honors for all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student first earned high school credit.

#### Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank **semester** grades earned in ~~all~~ high school credit courses **taken at any grade level** ~~regardless of when the credit was earned~~, unless excluded below.

**The class rank calculation shall include semester grades from a course that is retaken after a passing grade has been earned.**

**The calculation shall not include failing grades.**

#### Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in local credit courses (including student aide courses) and all grades earned at a nonaccredited school.

#### Weighted Grade System

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 in accordance with the provisions of this policy **and as designated in appropriate District publications.**

#### Tier 1

Eligible Advanced Placement (AP) courses and dual credit courses ~~designated in the course catalog~~ shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 1 courses.

#### Tier 2

Eligible Pre-AP courses, gifted and talented (GT) courses, and other courses locally designated as honors ~~in the course catalog~~ shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 2 courses.

#### Tier 3

All other eligible courses shall be designated as Tier 3 courses.

#### Weighted Numerical Grade Average

The District shall assign weights to **semester** grades earned in eligible courses and ~~shall~~ calculate a weighted numerical grade average in accordance with the following ~~scale~~:

Category	Weight	<del>Top Grade</del>
Tier 1	plus 15	<del>115</del>
Tier 2	plus 10	<del>110</del>
Tier 3	plus 0	<del>100</del>

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Transferred Grades **When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the Tier 3 category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.**

When a student transfers **semester** grades for ~~properly documented and eligible~~ courses **that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system**, the District shall assign **additional** weight to ~~these~~ **the** grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District **only** if ~~the grades were earned at an accredited school and a similar~~ **or an equivalent** courses ~~are~~ **is** offered to the same class of students in the District.

**Local Graduation Honors**

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank **in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by** using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year. ~~The grade for the third nine-week grading period shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose.~~

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class ranking as required by state law. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognition and shall not restrict class ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

**Ranking for Early Graduates**

~~A student who completes the high school program requirements in fewer than four years shall be ranked in the class with which he or she actually graduates and shall be eligible for all honor positions.~~

**Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second highest ranking, respectively.

To be eligible for such recognition, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the three semesters immediately preceding graduation; and
2. Have completed the ~~Recommended Program, the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, or the~~ foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

*Breaking Ties*

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages **after calculation to the fourth decimal place**, the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian:

~~1. Compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken.~~

~~2.1. Compare~~ **Count** the number of Tier 1 courses taken by each student involved in the tie.

~~3.2.~~ Calculate a weighted numerical grade average using only grades earned in Tier 1 courses.

*Honor Graduates*

~~The District shall recognize students in the top ten percent of each graduating class as honor graduates. The three-semester residency requirement necessary for recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian shall not be applicable for recognition as an honor graduate.~~

**Highest-Ranking Graduate**

**The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.**