

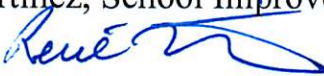


Eagle Pass Independent School District

Office of School Improvement

"Create Opportunities for Tomorrow's Leaders to Succeed"

To: Gilberto Gonzalez, Superintendent of Schools

From: Rene Martinez, School Improvement, Curriculum and Accountability Director 

Date: February 26, 2018

RE: **Academic Achievement Ranking Policy (EIC Local)**

We are submitting the EIC Local policy update for your consideration at the next school board meeting.

This policy update addresses the different Advanced Placement courses. It awards the students ten (10) extra points to the students' Grade Point Average (GPA) in the Fine Arts and Foreign Language courses. It also awards twenty (20) extra points to the students' GPA in the core Advanced Placement courses.

We believe that these changes will entice the high school students to enroll in more rigorous and challenging courses.

Approved: 

Samuel Mijares, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING**

**EIC
(LOCAL)**

The District shall apply the same rules for class rank calculation and local graduation honors to all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student entered grade 9 or the graduation program under which the student completes requirements for graduation.

**Grade 9 Before the
2013–14 School Year**

The following provisions shall apply to students who entered grade 9 before the 2013–14 school year.

Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank grades earned in all high school credit courses regardless of when the credit was earned in the following subjects: English, mathematics, science, social studies, languages other than English, any Advanced Placement (AP) course not associated with these subjects, and approved dual credit courses.

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by a local credit course; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; and credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

In addition, the calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned through distance learning.

**Weighted Numerical
Grade Average**

In accordance with the following scale, the District shall assign weights to grades earned in eligible courses and shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average per semester. The grade earned in AP courses can be any grade earned, and if the grade earned in Pre-AP and dual credit courses or Regular courses is 80 or above, the following shall apply:

Category	Weight
AP Courses	plus 10
Pre-AP and Dual Credit Courses	plus 5
Regular Courses	plus zero

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

**Grade 9 in the
2013–14 School Year**

Application of the following provisions began with students who entered grade 9 in the 2013–14 school year.

Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank grades earned in all high school credit courses regardless of when the credit was earned in the following subjects: English, mathematics, science, social studies, languages other than English, any AP course not associated with these subjects, and approved dual credit courses.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Exclusions The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by a local credit course; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; and credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

In addition, the calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned through distance learning and in dual credit courses taken through a college with which the District does not have a partnership agreement.

Weighted Grade System The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as AP courses, Pre-AP and dual credit courses, and Regular courses in accordance with provisions of this policy.

Categories

AP Courses Eligible AP courses designated in the student handbook shall be categorized and weighted as AP courses.

Pre-AP and Dual Credit Pre-AP and dual credit courses designated in the student handbook shall be categorized and weighted as Pre-AP and dual credit courses.

Regular Courses All other eligible courses shall be designated as Regular courses.

Weighted Numerical Grade Average In accordance with the following scale, the District shall assign weights to grades earned in eligible courses and shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average per semester if the grade earned is 70 or above:

Category	Weight
AP Courses	plus 20
Pre-AP and Dual Credit Courses	plus 10
Regular Courses	plus zero

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Early Graduates A student who completes all coursework for graduation in fewer than four years shall have his or her class rank calculated using the weighted grade system of the graduating class, and the student shall be ranked with the class in the school year in which he or she graduates.

Transferred Grades When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if similar or equivalent courses are offered to the same class of students in the District.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

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(LOCAL)

**Local Graduation
Honors**

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank 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 recognitions and shall not restrict class ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

**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 same high school in the District for the two academic school years immediately preceding graduation;
2. Have completed the Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program for graduation; and
3. Be graduating after exactly four years of enrollment in high school.

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages, the District shall compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian.

If the tie is still not broken, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

Honor Graduates

The District shall recognize with white cords each student in the top five percent of the graduating class, including the valedictorian and the salutatorian.

The District shall recognize with gold cords each student who has completed the Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program with a cumulative weighted numerical grade average no lower than 90.

**Beginning with
Grade 9 in the
2014–15 School Year**

Application of the following provisions began with students who entered grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Valedictorian and Salutatorian	<p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have been continuously enrolled in the same high school in the District for the two academic school years immediately preceding graduation;2. Have completed the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program for graduation; and3. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment.
<i>Highest Ranking Graduate</i>	<p>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 scholarship certificate from the state of Texas.</p>
<i>Breaking Ties</i>	<p>In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages, the District shall compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian.</p> <p>If the tie is still not broken, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.</p>
Top Five Percent Graduate	<p>The District shall recognize with white cords each student in the top five percent of the graduating class, including the valedictorian and the salutatorian. To be recognized as a top five percent graduate, a student shall be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school.</p>
Honor Graduate	<p>The District shall recognize with gold cords each student who has completed the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program with a cumulative weighted numerical grade average no lower than 90.</p>

PROPOSED REVISIONS 02/23/18

Consistent Application for Graduating Class

The District shall apply the same rules for class rank calculation and local graduation honors to all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student entered grade 9 or the graduation program under which the student completes requirements for graduation.

Grade 9 Before the ~~2013-14~~2017-18 School Year

The following provisions shall apply to students who entered grade 9 before the ~~2013-14~~2017-18 school year.

Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank grades earned in all high school credit courses regardless of when the credit was earned in the following subjects: English, mathematics, science, social studies, languages other than English, any Advanced Placement (AP) course not associated with these subjects, and approved dual credit courses.

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by a local credit course; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; and credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

In addition, the calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned through distance learning and in dual credit courses taken through a college with which the District does not have a partnership agreement.

Weighted Grade System

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as AP courses, Pre-AP and dual credit courses, and Regular courses in accordance with provisions of this policy.

Categories

AP Courses

Eligible AP courses designated in the course catalog shall be categorized and weighted as AP courses.

Pre-AP and Dual Credit

Eligible pre-AP and dual credit courses designated in the course catalog shall be categorized and weighted as Pre-AP and dual credit courses.

Regular Courses

All other eligible courses shall be designated as Regular courses.

Weighted Numerical Grade Average

In accordance with the following scale, the District shall assign weights to grades earned in eligible courses and shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average per semester. ~~The grade earned in AP courses can be any grade earned, and if the grade earned in Pre-AP and dual credit courses or Regular courses~~ if the grade earned is ~~80-70~~ or above, ~~the following shall apply:~~

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

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Category	Weight
AP Courses	plus 4 20
Pre-AP and Dual Credit Courses	plus 5 10
Regular Courses	plus zero

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Early Graduates

A student who completes all coursework for graduation in fewer than four years shall have his or her class rank calculated using the weighted grade system of the graduating class, and the student shall be ranked with the class in the school year in which he or she graduates.

Transferred
Grades

When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if similar or equivalent courses are 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 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 recognitions and shall not restrict class ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

Valedictorian and
Salutarian

The valedictorian and salutarian 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 same high school in the District for the two academic school years immediately preceding graduation;
2. Have completed the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program for graduation; and
3. Be graduating after exactly four years of enrollment in high school.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

<u>Breaking Ties</u>	<u>In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages, the District shall compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian.</u> <u>If the tie is still not broken, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.</u>
<u>Honor Graduates</u>	<u>The District shall recognize with white cords each student in the top five percent of the graduating class, including the valedictorian and the salutatorian.</u> <u>The District shall recognize with gold cords each student who has completed the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program with a cumulative weighted numerical grade average no lower than 90.</u>
<u>Highest Ranking Graduate</u>	<u>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 scholarship certificate from the state of Texas.</u>
Grade 9 in the 2013-14<u>2017-18</u> School Year	Application of the following provisions began with students who entered grade 9 in the 2013-14 <u>2017-18</u> school year.
Calculation	The District shall include in the calculation of class rank grades earned in all high school credit courses regardless of when the credit was earned in the following subjects: English, mathematics, science, social studies, languages other than English, any AP course not associated with these subjects, and approved dual credit courses.
<i>Exclusions</i>	The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by a local credit course; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; and credit by examination, with or without prior instruction. In addition, the calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned through distance learning and in dual credit courses taken through a college with which the District does not have a partnership agreement.
Weighted Grade System	The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as AP courses, Pre-AP and dual credit courses, and Regular courses in accordance with provisions of this policy.
Categories	
AP Courses	Eligible AP courses designated in the student handbook <u>course catalog</u> shall be categorized and weighted as AP courses.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

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Pre-AP and
Dual Credit

Eligible ~~P~~pre-AP and dual credit courses designated in the ~~student handbook~~course catalog shall be categorized and weighted as Pre-AP and dual credit courses.

Regular
Courses

All other eligible courses shall be designated as Regular courses.

Weighted Numerical
Grade Average

In accordance with the following scale, the District shall assign weights to grades earned in eligible courses and shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average per semester if the grade earned is 70 or above:

Category	Weight
AP Courses	plus 20
<u>AP Foreign Language and AP Fine Arts Courses</u>	<u>plus 10</u>
Pre-AP and Dual Credit Courses	plus 10
Regular Courses	plus zero

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Early Graduates

A student who completes all coursework for graduation in fewer than four years shall have his or her class rank calculated using the weighted grade system of the graduating class, and the student shall be ranked with the class in the school year in which he or she graduates.

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if similar or equivalent courses are 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 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 recognitions and shall not restrict class ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

*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 same high school in the District for the two academic school years immediately preceding graduation;
2. Have completed the [distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program](#) ~~Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program~~ for graduation; and
3. Be graduating after exactly four years of enrollment in high school.

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages, the District shall compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian.

If the tie is still not broken, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

Honor Graduates

The District shall recognize with white cords each student in the top five percent of the graduating class, including the valedictorian and the salutatorian. [To be recognized as a top five percent graduate, a student shall be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school.](#)

The District shall recognize with gold cords each student who has completed the ~~Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program~~ [distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program](#) with a cumulative weighted numerical grade average no lower than 90.

~~Beginning with
Grade 9 in the
2014-15 School Year~~
Valedictorian and
Salutatorian

~~Application of the following provisions began with students who entered grade 9 in the 2014-15 school year.~~

~~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 same high school in the District for the two academic school years immediately preceding graduation;~~
- ~~2. Have completed the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program for graduation; and~~
- ~~3. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment.~~

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Breaking Ties	In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages, the District shall compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian. If the tie is still not broken, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.
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 scholarship certificate from the state of Texas.
Top Five Percent Graduate	The District shall recognize with white cords each student in the top five percent of the graduating class, including the valedictorian and the salutatorian. To be recognized as a top five percent graduate, a student shall be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school.
Honor Graduate	The District shall recognize with gold cords each student who has completed the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program with a cumulative weighted numerical grade average no lower than 90.