

PROPOSED POLICY: 6.25.2020

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 high school credit courses taken at any grade level, unless excluded below.

The calculation shall include failing grades.

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in physical education, athletics, band; choir, summer school, a distance learning course, unless the course is either assigned to the student by the District or offered as a course option along with traditional District courses, a dual credit course taken through a college with which the District does not have a partnership agreement, independent study courses, any local credit course, office aide, teacher aide, school counselor aide, library aide, any course not recognized by TEA, any course taken in a nonaccredited instructional situation, or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Weighted Grade System

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Level II, Foundation, and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Categories

Level II

Eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level II courses.

Foundation

Eligible courses that have not been modified shall be categorized and weighted as Foundation courses.

Regular

All modified courses shall be categorized and weighted as Regular courses.

Weighted Numerical Grade Average

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

Category	Weight
Level II	plus 10

Category	Weight
Foundation	plus 5
Regular	plus 0

No points shall be added to failing grades.

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 Foundation 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 courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District’s weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to the grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District.

Students transferring into the District shall receive the numerical grade that was earned in courses at another school. Letter grades shall be recorded as follows:

Conversion Scale	
A	95
B	85
C	75
F	60

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2024.

Class Rank

Class rank shall not be reported except for students in the top ten percent of a given class as required by law. The District shall provide each student ranked in the top ten percent a written notification indicating the student is ranked in the top ten percent of the class and include the student’s numerical rank in class. The District shall not report class rank on a student’s academic transcript for any student not in the top ten percent. When the District provides the academic achievement record (transcript) for a top ten percent student to a college or university, it shall also provide a copy of the written notification indicating the student is ranked in the top ten percent of the class and the actual numerical rank in class.

Weighted Grade System

Categories

Level II

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Level II and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Eligible advanced courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level II courses.

Regular

All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Regular courses.

Weighted Numerical Grade Average

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

Category	Weight
Level II	plus 10
Regular	plus 0

No points shall be added to failing grades.

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 Foundation 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 courses that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to the grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District.

Students transferring into the District shall receive the numerical grade that was earned in courses at another school. Letter grades shall be recorded as follows:

Conversion Scale	
A	95
B	85
C	75
F	60

Note: The following provisions shall apply to all students, regardless of their graduating class.

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 fifth six-week grading period of the senior year.

Grades received in May for dual credit courses shall also be included in the calculation.

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class rank 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 rank 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 rank, respectively. To be eligible for this local graduation honor, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the six consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation;
2. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; and
3. Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

No Ties

In order to recognize only one student as valedictorian and one student as salutatorian, the District shall calculate weighted numerical grade averages to a sufficient number of decimal places so that no ties exist among eligible students.

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.