



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: First and final reading of Policy EIC (LOCAL) – Academic Achievement Class Ranking regarding Grade Equivalence for Advanced Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP)

SUBMITTED BY: Christina Cabello, Executive Director for Instructional Accountability

OF: Curriculum and Instruction Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: November 29, 2022

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: December 14, 2022

Recommendation:

Administration recommends approval of the grade equivalencies for Credit By Exam for Advanced Placement (AP) and College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) assessments when used to obtain credit for equivalent courses.

Rationale:

The numerical grade equivalencies will be used to calculate the weighted averages for students wishing to use these exams to earn credits for the corresponding courses. Students and their parents will have the option to not use the qualifying exams to earn credits for the corresponding courses.

Budgetary Information:

The district will incur the expense of the AP/CLEP exam if a qualifying score is obtained and the student and parent wish to use it to earn credit for a corresponding course, prior to taking either assessment for credit-by-exam purposes.

Board Policy Reference and Compliance:

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in all high school credit courses regardless of when the credit was earned.

The calculation shall include failing grades.

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned.

Weighted Grade System

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Tier 1 and Tier 2 in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in the Course Catalog.

Categories

Tier 1

Eligible AP courses, dual credit courses completed in the District, Pre-AP courses, and locally designated advanced courses shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 1 courses.

Tier 2

All other eligible courses, including dual credit courses not completed in the District, shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 2 courses.

Weighted Numerical Grade Average

The District shall assign weights to semester grades of at least 70 earned in eligible courses and calculate a weighted numerical grade average, in accordance with the following:

Category	Weight
Tier 1	plus 10
Tier 1 AP course with AP test score of at least 3	add'l plus 5
Tier 2	plus 0

No points shall be added to failing final course average grades

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts and report cards.

High Quality (HQ) Points will be added to Tier 1 courses as stated above.

Credit by Examination Grade Equivalencies

When a student seeks course credit through credit by examination without prior instruction by taking an AP exam or a College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam the grade for a passing score shall be recorded on the student's transcript and used in the calculation of class rank in accordance with the following chart:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>AP Exam</u>	<u>CLEP Exam</u>
<u>95</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>80</u>
<u>90</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>70</u>
<u>85</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>60</u>

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for properly documented courses, the District shall assign weight to those 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 the eligible courses at another school. Letter grades for eligible courses shall be recorded as follows:

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade
A+	98
A	95
A-	92
B+	88
B	85
B-	82
C+	78
C	75
C-	72
D+	68
D	65
D-	62
F	50

Local Graduation Honors

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank 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.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

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 who have the highest and second-highest rank, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition a student must:

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

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie, the District shall compute the weighted GPA or weighted numerical grade average, as applicable, to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken.

Honor Graduates

The District shall recognize as an honor graduate each student who has completed the foundation program and has an overall weighted numerical grade average of at least 90.

Honor graduates shall be recognized in accordance with the following:

Recognition	Weighted Numerical Grade Average
Summa cum laude	At least 100
Magna cum laude	95–99
Cum laude	90–94

**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.