

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

In accordance with administrative regulations, the class rank calculation shall include the higher weighted semester grade from a course that is retaken after a passing grade has been earned. The **higher or original** passing grade shall be recorded on the transcript.

Consultant comment: I recommend the language above regarding inclusion of grades from a course that is retaken after a passing grade has been earned. You can clarify in administrative regulations (such as your course catalog) that for purposes of calculation of class rank, only two attempts at a course will be considered in determining the semester grade(s) that will be included in the calculation.

We didn't discuss which grade would be recorded on the transcript, so please choose the appropriate language for your practice. Alternatively, you can choose not to address the transcript question in policy and address it in administrative regulations.

Exclusions

The calculation shall include failing grades.

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

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of 2024 – 2026.

Weighted Grade System

Categories

Tier 1

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 appropriate District publications.

Eligible Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-AP, and dual credit courses shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 1 courses.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Tier 2

All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 2 courses.

**Weighted
Numerical
Grade Average**

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

Category	Weight
Tier 1*	Multiplied by 1.1
Tier 2	Multiplied by 1.0

* A grade of 60-69 in a dual credit course shall receive high school credit, and the grade shall be converted to a 70 for purposes of calculating class rank.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Consultant Comment: Provisions for the classes of 2024 – 2026 were taken from a version of this policy adopted in 2018.

Please note two changes:

I've changed "Level" to "Tier" in the categories names. This is not a necessary change, but it makes it easier later in the policy to describe your tie-breaking procedures to standardize the language for your weighted categories. We can always retain "Level" and revise references to these weighted categories later in the policy if you all prefer.

I've added language indicating that a grade of 60 – 69 in a dual credit course receives high school credit and will be converted to a 70 for purposes of calculating class rank.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2027.

**Weighted Grade
System**

Categories

Tier 1

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

Eligible Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit courses shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 1 courses.

Tier 2

Eligible Pre-AP and dual enrollment/UT OnRamps course shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 2 courses.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Tier 3

All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 3 courses.

Weighted Numerical
Grade Average

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

Category	Weight
Tier 1*	multiplied by 1.2
Tier 2	multiplied by 1.1
Tier 3	multiplied by 1.0

*** A grade of 60-69 in a dual credit course shall receive high school credit, and the grade shall be converted to a 70 for purposes of calculating class rank.**

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

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

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under **Tier 2 in the graduating classes of 2024 – 2027 and Tier 3 beginning with the graduating class of 2027**, and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

Consultant comment: The paragraph above refers to transfer grades in unweighted categories. The paragraph below refers to weighted categories—anything other than the unweighted categories listed above.

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 only if the same or an equivalent course 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

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth six-week grading period of the senior year.

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

Consultant comment: Any grades received in December are already available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth six-week grading period, so there's no need to mention their inclusion 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
Salutarian

The valedictorian and salutarian 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 same District high school for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation;
2. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school;
3. Have passed at least five ~~Level~~ **Tier** 1 courses; and
4. Have completed 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:

1. Count the number of Tier 1 courses taken by each student involved in the tie.
2. Calculate an unweighted numerical grade average using grades earned in all Tier 1 courses taken by each student involved in the tie.

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

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

**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.

~~The local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall not affect recognition of the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.~~