



# UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

**TOPIC:** Approval of First and Final Reading of EIC (LOCAL) Academic Achievement Class Ranking

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christina Uribe Flores, Director of Guidance & Counseling

**OF:** Curriculum and Instruction Department

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** June 20, 2018

**Recommendation:**

Approval of first and final reading of EIC (LOCAL) policy to change from the current weighted grading system from a 4.0 scale to a 100-point grading scale beginning with students who enter grade 9 in the 2018-2019 school year and thereafter.

In addition, to seek approval to recognize more eligible graduates with honor distinctions.

Also, approval to change the F on the conversion scale from a 0 to a 50.

**Rationale:**

**Budgetary Information:**

**Board Policy Reference and Compliance:**

EIC (LOCAL)

# Academic Achievement Class Ranking Beginning with the Class of 2022

2017-18 Eighth Grade Students

Instructional Committee Meeting  
June 12, 2018






## Graduating Summa, Magna or Cum Laude

- ❖ This system would begin with 8th-grade students from the 2017-18 school year who will be first time 9th-graders in 2018-19 and are the graduating class of 2022.
- ❖ GPA calculation would include all high school courses taken (including 8th grade HS courses like Algebra I).
- ❖ **No change from the current system.**
- ❖ The scale would be modified to a 100 point scale system. Tier I weighted courses will add 10 points for successful completion at UISD schools. Tier II courses would be for all regular unweighted courses.
- ❖ **A change from the 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0 system would ease GPA calculations for all stakeholders. Policy EIC Local delineates how GPAs will be calculated.**
- ❖ Students earning an AP exam score of 3, 4 or 5 would receive a 5 point increase to their high quality points (HQP - Tyler) for eligible courses within the discipline.



## Graduating Summa, Magna or Cum Laude

- ❖  Student recognition would expand from Top Ten to the following:
  - Valedictorian Overall Highest GPA
  - Salutatorian Overall 2nd Highest GPA
  - Summa Cum Laude Overall GPA of 100 & higher
  - Magna Cum Laude Overall GPA range 95 - 99
  - Cum Laude Overall GPA range 90 - 94

**All students maintaining an overall GPA of 90 or better would be honored. In preliminary forecasting models, over 150 students would be honored using the 2-Tier calculation at each high school.**



## Graduating Summa, Magna or Cum Laude

- ❖ This methodology continues to support differentiated Endorsement participation and AP program participation.
- ❖ Students' Academic Achievement Records (AARs) would continue to show individual student ranking within the graduating class (for Top 6 - 10% state recognition).
- ❖ Students would be able to take all the Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre AP), Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual enrollment courses their schedule permits as long as they meet state/district eligibility.
- ❖ Magnet and non-magnet students would have equal opportunity for Top 6 - 10% state recognition depending on individual student performance.
- ❖ This change could entice more students to earn "A"s in all or most of their courses.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
CLASS RANKING

EIC  
(LOCAL)

- 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.
- Exclusions** The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned.
- Weighted Grade System- Students Graduating Before 2022** The District shall categorize and weight courses as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3, in accordance with provisions of this policy.
- Categories**
- Tier 1* Eligible Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit courses designated in the course catalog shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 1.
  - Tier 2* Eligible Pre-AP courses and other locally identified weighted courses designated in the course catalog shall be categorized and weighted as Tier 2.
  - Tier 3* All other eligible courses identified in the course catalog shall be designated as Tier 3.
- Weighted Grade Point Average** The District shall convert semester grades to grade points and shall calculate a weighted grade point average (GPA) in accordance with the following chart:

Grade	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
100	6.0	5.0	4.0
99	5.9	4.9	3.9
98	5.8	4.8	3.8
97	5.7	4.7	3.7
96	5.6	4.6	3.6
95	5.5	4.5	3.5
94	5.4	4.4	3.4
93	5.3	4.3	3.3
92	5.2	4.2	3.2
91	5.1	4.1	3.1
90	5.0	4.0	3.0
89	4.9	3.9	2.9
88	4.8	3.8	2.8
87	4.7	3.7	2.7
86	4.6	3.6	2.6
85	4.5	3.5	2.5
84	4.4	3.4	2.4

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
CLASS RANKING

EIC  
(LOCAL)

Grade	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
83	4.3	3.3	2.3
82	4.2	3.2	2.2
81	4.1	3.1	2.1
80	4.0	3.0	2.0
79	3.9	2.9	1.9
78	3.8	2.8	1.8
77	3.7	2.7	1.7
76	3.6	2.6	1.6
75	3.5	2.5	1.5
74	3.4	2.4	1.4
73	3.3	2.3	1.3
72	3.2	2.2	1.2
71	3.1	2.1	1.1
70	3.0	2.0	1.0
< 70	0	0	0

**Weighted Grade System-Beginning with Students Who Entered Grade 9 in the 2018-2019 School**

The District shall use a 100-point grading scale to calculate a student's cumulative grade point average (GPA) by including all grades earned.

Courses shall be weighted as follows for GPA calculation only:

Category	Weight
Eligible Advanced Placement (AP) courses for which a student takes and scores a 3, 4, or 5 on the corresponding AP exam will receive additional weight if the student earns a final average of a 70 or better.	<b>+5 points</b>
<b>Tier 1:</b> AP, eligible Dual Credit*, Pre-AP and other locally identified weighted courses designated in the course catalog	<b>+10 points</b>
<b>Tier 2:</b> Regular courses	<b>No weight</b>

\*Approved Dual Credit courses not completed at UISD will not receive additional weight.

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

**Transferred Grades**

When a student transfers 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:

Conversion Scale

A+	98	C+	78
A	95	C	75
A-	92	C-	72
B+	88	D+	68
B	85	D	65
B-	82	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.

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 ~~Recommended Program, the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, or the Foundation~~ [High School Program](#) with the [curriculum requirements](#)



for the distinguished level of achievement and at least one endorsement; 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 to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken.

**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.

**Honor Graduates Beginning with Students Who Entered Grade 9 in the 2018-2019 School Year**

Beginning with students who entered grade 9 in the 2018-2019 school year, honor graduates shall meet all graduation requirements under the Foundation High School Program and shall complete the distinguished level of achievement with at least one endorsement. The cumulative grade point average (GPA) used in designating honor graduates shall be calculated at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year.

Students shall be recognized as honor graduates according to the following criteria:

Valedictorian	Highest Cumulative GPA
Salutatorian	Second Highest Cumulative GPA
Summa Cum Laude	Overall GPA of 100 or higher
Magna Cum Laude	Overall GPA of 95-99
Cum Laude	Overall GPA of 90-94

To be eligible for Valedictorian and Salutatorian, a student who entered grade 9 in 2018-2019 school year shall also meet the additional eligibility requirements mentioned above.