

### **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.

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

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### **Calculating Class Rank**

Class rank shall be computed by using grade points for all academic courses for all four years (all three years for three-year graduates).

#### *Exclusions:*

The following shall not be used in computing class rank: grades earned in choir or physical education, high school courses taken at the middle school level, classes that receive local credit, and athletics; or grades earned through credit by examination, concurrent enrollment courses, and certain distance learning and correspondence courses, as described below.

Courses taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) and state-approved correspondence courses taken through Texas Tech University and the University of Texas at Austin shall be included in calculating grade point average (GPA) and determining class rank. All other distance learning and correspondence courses are excluded.

### **Weighted Grade System**

The District shall categorize and weight courses as either Advanced or Regular courses.

#### *Advanced Courses*

Pre-Advanced Placement (AP), AP, dual credit, University Interscholastic League (UIL) independent study courses, and other advanced courses designated in the student handbook shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced courses.

#### *Regular Courses*

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

#### *Weighted Grade Point Average*

The following grade average/grade points conversion chart shall be used:

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
CLASS RANKING

EIC  
(LOCAL)

Regular Courses

|             |   |                      |
|-------------|---|----------------------|
| 100         | = | 5.0 grade points     |
| 90–99       | = | 4.0–4.9 grade points |
| 80–89       | = | 3.0–3.9 grade points |
| 70–79       | = | 2.0–2.9 grade points |
| 69 or below | = | 0 grade point        |

Advanced Courses

|             |   |                      |
|-------------|---|----------------------|
| 100         | = | 6.0 grade points     |
| 90–99       | = | 5.0–5.9 grade points |
| 80–89       | = | 4.0–4.9 grade points |
| 70–79       | = | 3.0–3.9 grade points |
| 69 or below | = | 0 grade point        |

*Transferred Grades*

When a student transfers semester grades for eligible courses, the District shall assign additional weight to the grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District.

*Transferred Letter Grades*

When a student transfers letter semester grades with no numerical equivalent from the sending school, the District shall convert the letter grades to numeric grades in accordance with the following chart, based on the lowest passing grade from the sending school:

| Letter Grade | Numeric Equivalent         |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|              | C- is lowest passing grade | D- is lowest passing grade |
| A+           | 98                         | 98                         |
| A            | 95                         | 95                         |
| A-           | 92                         | 92                         |
| B+           | 88                         | 88                         |
| B            | 85                         | 85                         |
| B-           | 83                         | 83                         |
| C+           | 78                         | 79                         |
| C            | 75                         | 77                         |

| Letter Grade | Numeric Equivalent                         |                     |
|--------------|--|---------------------|
| C-           | 73   | 75                  |
| D+           | 69 if one semester;<br>65 if two semesters | 74                  |
| D            |  | 72                  |
| D-           |  | 70                  |
| F            |  | 69 if one semester; |
|              |  | 65 if two semesters |

### 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 third nine-week grading period of the senior year.

#### *Honor Graduates*

All graduating seniors, including three-year graduates, who have maintained an average of 4.5 or better in all academic subjects and have completed the requirements of the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement shall be considered honor graduates.

#### *Valedictorian/Salutatorian*

From among the honor graduates, the students having the highest and second-highest GPA shall be designated as valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. To be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian, students shall have been enrolled in the District high school for at least three years. Students sent to the alternative school for disciplinary reasons shall be ineligible for valedictorian and salutatorian.

#### *Tiebreaker*

If a tie exists for valedictorian, the District shall consider the final numerical average carried to four decimal places, the number of honors-level courses taken, and the total number of grade points earned in honors-level courses.

If a tie exists after all tiebreakers have been exhausted, co-valedictorians shall be named and no salutatorian shall be honored.

### Top Ten Percent

All students whose GPAs make up the top ten percent of the graduating class and qualify for automatic admission under Education Code 51.803 shall be recognized. Eligibility standards required for the local procedure for determining valedictorian and salutatorian (or other local honor positions) shall not apply to the procedure for determining the top ten percent. The GPA shall be reported on the student's transcript and made available, when requested by the student, in accordance with the application deadline for the college or university. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

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**Note:** The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2024 through the class of 2027.

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### Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses, regardless of weighted category, taken at any grade level, unless excluded below and only in the following courses:

- Up eight semesters of English language arts, including English I, English II, English III, and English IV or another requirement;
- Up to six semesters of mathematics, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or another foundation advanced course meeting the mathematics credit requirement;
- Up to six semesters of science, including Biology, Chemistry, or another foundation advanced course meeting the science credit requirement, and Physics or another foundation advanced course meeting the science credit requirement;
- Up to eight semesters of social studies and economics, including World Geography Studies, World History Studies, United States History Studies Since 1877, United States Government, and Economics with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits; and
- Up to four semesters of languages other than English in the same foreign language.

The calculation shall include only the first attempt at any course included in the calculation.

### *Exclusions*

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in:

- Summer school;
- Credit earned in the Fast Track program;
- 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 or concurrent enrollment course taken anywhere other than the District high school;
- Any local credit course;
- Any credit recovery course;
- Any independent study course; or
- Through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

### **Weighted Grade System**

#### *Categories*

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Dual Credit, Honors, and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

#### *Dual Credit*

Eligible dual credit and OnRamps courses shall be categorized and weighted as Dual Credit courses.

#### *Honors*

Courses locally designated as honors shall be categorized and weighted as Honors 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            |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Dual Credit | multiplied by 1.2 |
| Honors      | multiplied by 1.1 |
| Regular     | multiplied by 1.0 |

All failing grades shall be multiplied by 1.0.

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 Regular 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 only if an equivalent course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

*Transferred Letter Grades*

When a student transfers letter semester grades with no numerical equivalent from the sending school, the District shall convert the letter grades to numeric grades in accordance with the following chart, based on the lowest passing grade from the sending school:

| Letter Grade | Numeric Equivalent                         |                            |
|--------------|--|----------------------------|
|              | C- is lowest passing grade                 | D- is lowest passing grade |
| A+           | 98   | 98                         |
| A            | 95   | 95                         |
| A-           | 92   | 92                         |
| B+           | 88   | 88                         |
| B            | 85   | 85                         |
| B-           | 83   | 83                         |
| C+           | 78   | 79                         |
| C            | 75   | 77                         |
| C-           | 73   | 75                         |
| D+           | 69 if one semester;<br>65 if two semesters | 74                         |
| D            |  | 72                         |
| D-           |  | 70                         |

| Letter Grade | Numeric Equivalent |  |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| F            |                    | 69 if one semester;<br>65 if two semesters |

### 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 third nine-week grading period of the senior year.

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 recognition 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:

- Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school beginning with at least the 31st day of instruction of the student's sophomore year; and
- Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

[For eligibility to speak at graduation, see FMH.]

#### *Breaking Ties*

In case of a tie in weighted numerical averages after calculation to the sixth decimal place, the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as valedictorian:

- Count the number of Dual Credit and Honors courses taken by each student involved in the tie.
- Calculate a weighted numerical average using only Dual Credit and Honors courses taken by each student involved in the tie.

If the tie for valedictorian is not broken after applying these methods, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title of valedictorian and no salutatorian shall be honored.

If the tie for salutatorian in weighted GPAs or weighted numerical averages is not broken after calculation to the sixth decimal place, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title of salutatorian.

*Honor Graduates*

The District shall designate as honor graduates all students who have:

- Completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement; and
- Maintained a weighted numerical grade average of 95 or above in semester grades included in class rank calculation.

or university. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

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**Note:** The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2028 and beyond.

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The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses, regardless of weighted category, taken at any grade level, unless excluded below and only in the following courses:

- **ALL SEMESTERS** of English language arts, including English I, English II, English III, and English IV or another requirement;
- **ALL SEMESTERS** of mathematics, including Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II or another foundation advanced course meeting the mathematics credit requirement;
- **ALL SEMESTERS** of science, including Biology, Chemistry, or another foundation advanced course meeting the science credit requirement, and Physics or another foundation advanced course meeting the science credit requirement;
- **ALL SEMESTERS** social studies and economics, including World Geography Studies, World History Studies, United States History Studies Since 1877, United States Government, and Economics with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits; and
- Up to four semesters of languages other than English in the same foreign language.
- The calculation shall include only the first attempt at any course included in the calculation.



### Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in:

- Summer school
- Credit earned in the Fast Track program;
- 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 or concurrent enrollment course taken anywhere other than the District high school;
- Any local credit course;
- Any credit recovery course;
- Any independent study course; or
- Through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

### Weighted Grade System

#### *Categories*

The District shall categorize and weigh eligible courses as Dual Credit, Honors, and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

#### *Dual Credit*

Eligible dual credit and OnRamps courses shall be categorized and weighted as Dual Credit courses.

#### *Honors*

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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            |
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All failing grades shall be multiplied by 1.0.

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 Regular 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 only if an equivalent course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

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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:

- Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school beginning with at least the 31st day of instruction of the student's sophomore year; and
- Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

[For eligibility to speak at graduation, see FMH.]

### Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted numerical averages after calculation to the sixth decimal place, the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as valedictorian:

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If the tie for valedictorian is not broken after applying these methods, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title of valedictorian and no salutatorian shall be honored.

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#### *Honor Graduates*

The District shall designate as honor graduates all students who have:

- Completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement; and
- Maintained a weighted numerical grade average of 95 or above in semester grades included in class rank calculation.

or university. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

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

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#### **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.