



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC Second Reading of Policy EIC (LOCAL): Academic Achievement – Class Ranking

SUBMITTED BY: Pamela R. Juarez **OF:** Instruction Department

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: March 23, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve Second Reading of Policy EIF (LOCAL) – Academic Achievement – Class Ranking

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

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CLASS RANK	<p>Class ranking shall be determined by averaging all grades earned in high school from courses listed in the State Board rules through the end of the third quarter of the senior year. Resource classes and courses approved for local credit, other than college-prep courses, shall not be included in the calculation for ranking.</p> <p>Beginning with the students who entered grade 8 in the 2008–09 school year, class ranking shall be determined by averaging all grades taken for high school credit through the third quarter of the senior year. The grade point average (GPA) shall be computed in accordance with this policy and shall be carried out to the fifth decimal place and rounded off to the fourth decimal place.</p>
VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN	<p>The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible seniors with the highest and second highest grade point average carried out to the fifth decimal place and rounded off to the fourth decimal place and who have completed the Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program. A student must have been continuously enrolled in the same District high school for the six semesters preceding graduation to be eligible for this honor.</p>
TIE	<p>Should a tie develop for valedictorian, the student with the highest GPA when carried out to the sixth decimal place shall be named valedictorian.</p>
CONDUCT	<p>To qualify to give the valedictorian or salutatorian speech, a student shall not have engaged in any serious misconduct violation of the Student Code of Conduct, including removal to a DAEP, a three-day suspension, or expulsion during his or her last two semesters.</p>
TOP TEN	<p>A student must graduate under the Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program to be eligible for recognition as a top ten graduate.</p>
TOP TEN PERCENT	<p>All students whose grade point averages comprise 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 as required by TEA and made available in accordance with the application deadline when requested by the student. [See EIC(LEGAL)]</p>
EARLY GRADUATES	<p>To be eligible to graduate early, a student shall complete all coursework and exit-level testing required of the ninth grade class in which he or she begins high school.</p>

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A student who completes the high school program requirements in fewer than four years shall be ranked in the class with which he or she actually graduates.

GRADES
TRANSFERRED FROM
OTHER DISTRICTS

All high school TEA-approved state credit grades transferred as numerical averages shall be accepted at face value. Grades transferred as passing or failing shall be accepted for credit, or none, as indicated on the transcript, but shall not be calculated into class ranking unless there is some accompanying explanatory information on the transcript. [See EIA]

Beginning with the students who entered grade 8 in the 2008–09 school year, a student who transfers into a District high school shall receive similar credits counted toward the GPA according to the list of courses offered in the District. Grades that earned weight at another district shall be given the weight as outlined in this policy.

Students transferring into the District shall receive the numerical grade that was earned in the courses at another school. Letter grades 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	60

Grades from non-accredited schools and homeschooling grades shall not be used to determine a student's grade point average for class ranking. Awarding of credits for students who were homeschooled shall be based on mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as outlined in the administrative guidelines for placement and awarding of credit for homeschooled students.

WEIGHTED GRADE
SCALE

All high school courses listed in the State Board rules for curriculum shall receive grades according to the table below. Resource classes and courses approved for local credit only (except college-prep classes) shall not be included for ranking purposes **for those students who entered ninth grade prior to 2009-2010.**

~~Weighted courses shall include:~~

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1. ~~All Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP);~~
2. ~~All Advanced Placement (AP);~~
3. ~~Scientific Research and Design;~~
4. ~~Research, Design, and Development;~~
5. ~~College Prep (local);~~
6. ~~Anatomy and Physiology;~~
7. ~~World Health Research;~~
8. ~~Retailing and E-tailing;~~
9. ~~Securities and Investments;~~
10. ~~Internetworking I and II; and~~
11. ~~Engineering Design and Presentation.~~

~~Other courses could be "selected" for weight by the faculty and administration with final approval by the Board.~~

~~All teachers shall be informed of the weighted policy to ensure accurate reporting for honor roll purposes.~~

Pre-AP and Advanced Placement (AP) are nationally recognized for their advanced level of curriculum. District courses in this category, and grade points assigned are listed in Administrative Guidelines.

GRADE 8 BEFORE
2008-09

All students who entered grade 8 prior to the 2008-09 school year shall have identified courses weighted according to the chart below:

Non-weighted	Weighted
100	110
99	109
98	108
97	107
96	106
95	105
94	104
93	103
92	102
91	101
90	100
89	99
88	98

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Non-weighted	Weighted
87	97
86	96
85	95
84	94
83	93
82	92
81	91
80	90
79	89
78	88
77	87
76	86
75	85
74	84
73	83
72	82
71	81
70	80

The minimum course grade must be a 70 to receive a weight of +10 points.

GRADE 8 IN 2008–09
AND THEREAFTER

Beginning with the students who entered grade 8 in the 2008–09 school year, for the purposes of class rank, students shall be ranked using a weighted 4.0 scale.

Advanced courses shall earn weighted credit according to the chart below and shall include AP, Pre-AP, dual credit, and other Board-approved courses, including those listed above. Advanced courses are those in which the TEKS are comprehensive and enriched, resulting in an academically rigorous curriculum.

Regular courses are those courses that provide a demanding curriculum in an array of offerings based on the TEKS.

Modified courses are those courses with a state course code that begins with the number nine and are designed to provide significant modifications to the TEKS through a student's individualized education program (IEP).

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Numerical Grade	AP Test Score of 3, 4, or 5	AP, Pre-AP, Dual Credit, or other Board- approved courses	Regular Courses	Modified Courses
98-100	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5
96-97	4.9	4.4	3.9	3.4
93-95	4.7	4.2	3.7	3.2
90-92	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0
88-89	4.3	3.8	3.3	2.8
86-87	4.1	3.6	3.1	2.6
83-85	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5
80-82	3.9	3.4	2.9	2.4
78-79	3.7	3.2	2.7	2.2
76-77	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0
73-75	3.3	2.8	2.3	1.8
70-72	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5
Below 70	0	0	0	0

ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES WEIGHTED COURSES

Beginning with the students who entered grade 8 in the 2008-2009 school year, the District shall reward students who enroll in advanced-level courses by awarding weight in those courses for purposes of determining GPA for class rank as follows [EIC Local Policy]:

1. At the end of the semester, passing grades of a 70 earned in AP courses shall receive five points. If the student earns a passing score of a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP exam the student shall be awarded another five points for a total of ten points.
2. At the end of the semester, passing grades of a 70 earned in Pre-AP courses shall receive five points.
3. At the end of the semester, passing grades earned in a Dual Credit course either at LCC, TAMIU or online shall receive five points. A passing score is considered an "A" through "D" with the exception of English 1301 and English 1302 at TAMIU. A student must receive a passing grade of "C" or better in order to receive credit for English 1301 and English 1302.
4. At the end of the semester, passing grades of a 70 earned for College-Prep (local credit) shall receive five points.
5. At the end of the semester, passing grades of a 70 earned in the following courses which were previously approved by the Board of Directors in which the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) are extended and enriched, resulting in an academically rigorous curriculum shall receive five points:
 - Scientific Research and Design;
 - Research, Design and Development;
 - Anatomy and Physiology;
 - World Health Research;
 - Retailing and E-tailing;
 - Securities and Investments;
 - Internetworking I; and
 - Engineering Design and Presentation.

Other courses could be "selected" for weight by the faculty and administration with final approval by the Board. Any faculty member or administrator interested in applying "weight" to a specific course must follow the following process for consideration. First, a proposal must be submitted to the Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction with proper documentation reflecting the rigor of the course. If such proposal deems substantial then it will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

All students who entered grade 8 prior to the 2008-2009 school year shall have identified courses weighted according to a chart listed in EIC Local Policy. These current juniors and seniors will receive a weight of 10 points for all courses listed above with the exception of dual credit courses mentioned in item 3. Dual Credit courses for these students do not add any weight and receive only a Pass/Fail grade which is not computed into the students Grade Point Average (GPA).