



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

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

SUBMITTED BY: Gloria S. Rendon **OF:** Asst. Supt for Administration

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: September 20, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve Second Reading of Policy EIC (LOCAL) – Academic Achievement: Class Ranking. Implementation of the STAAR Program will have an impact on this policy. Two key EOC assessment concepts have significant policy implications for districts in the areas of course credit, and grading.

Attached please find the revisions submitted to TASB from which our new policy has been drafted.

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

PROPOSED REVISIONS

CALCULATION –
GRADE 8 PRIOR TO
2008–2009 CLASS
RANK

~~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.~~ The District shall include in the calculation of class rank grades earned in all high school credit courses taken in grades 9–12, unless excluded below.

EXCLUSIONS

Resource classes and courses approved for local credit, other than college-prep courses, shall not be included in the calculation for ranking.

CALCULATION –
GRADE 8 IN 2008–2009
AND THEREAFTER

Beginning with the students who entered grade 8 in the 2008–09 school year, 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. ~~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.~~

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 and shall be carried out to the fifth decimal place and rounded off to the fourth decimal place. 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 ranking 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 ranking for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

TOP TEN

A student must graduate under the Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program to be eligible for recognition as a top ten graduate.

VALEDICTORIAN AND
SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible ~~seniors~~ students 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 be a four-year graduate and have been continuously enrolled in the same District high school for the six semesters preceding graduation to be eligible for this honor.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

BREAKING TIES

Should a tie develop for valedictorian, the student with the highest GPA when carried out to the sixth decimal place shall be named valedictorian.

~~CONDUCT~~

~~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.~~

~~TOP TEN PERCENT~~

~~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)]~~

EARLY GRADUATES

To be eligible to graduate early, a student shall complete all coursework and ~~exit-level testing~~ state-mandated assessments required of the ninth grade class in which he or she begins high school.

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.

TRANSFERRED
GRADES ~~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 either be accepted or not accepted for credit, 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 in 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

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

A-	92	C-	72
B+	88	D+	68
B	85	D	65
B-	82	D-	62
		F	60

Grades from nonaccredited 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 grade 9 prior to the 2009–10 school year.

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses are nationally recognized for their high level of curriculum. The list of courses offered by the District and the assigned grade points for each course in these categories shall be listed in administrative guidelines.

GRADE 8 BEFORE
2008–09 WEIGHTED
NUMERICAL
AVERAGE

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

Nonweighted	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
87	97

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Nonweighted	Weighted
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 –
WEIGHTED GRADE
POINT AVERAGE

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).

The following chart shall apply:

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

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