



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

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

SUBMITTED BY: Guadalupe Gorordo, Ph.D, Assoc. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: May 16, 2012

Recommendation: To include the conduct of the valedictorian and/or salutatorian in order to qualify them to give their speech. In addition, it is recommended that we discontinue the weighted scale for students who entered the 9th grade in 2008-2009 since these students will graduate in May, hence we will no longer need this grading scale.

Rationale:

Budgetary Information:

Board Policy Reference and Compliance:

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

CALCULATION – GRADE 8 PRIOR TO 2008–09	The District shall include in the calculation of class rank grades earned in all high school credit courses regardless of when credit was earned, 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 2008–09 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.
LOCAL GRADUATION HONORS	<p>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.</p> <p>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)]</p>
TOP TEN	A student must graduate under the Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program in order to be eligible for recognition as a top ten graduate.
VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN	The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students who have the highest and second highest grade point average (GPA) 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 must have been continuously enrolled in the same District high school for the six semesters preceding graduation to be eligible for this honor.
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 misconduct violation of level three or higher of the Student Code of Conduct.

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EARLY GRADUATES

To be eligible to graduate early, a student shall complete all coursework and 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

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
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 GPA 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-~~

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~~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
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

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Nonweighted	Weighted
70	80

~~The minimum course grade must be a 70 in order to receive a weight of + ten 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. 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:

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