



**FOREST LAKE AREA SCHOOLS
FOREST LAKE, MN 55025**

December 18, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: 5.2

**TOPIC: APPROVAL OF WEIGHTED GRADES/CLASS RANK
PROPOSAL**

BACKGROUND: Forest Lake Area High School offers over 25 Advanced Placement (AP) and College in the Schools (CIS) courses. With the level of rigor associated with AP and CIS courses, students sometimes fear that they may earn a lower grade in the course, which would affect their GPA and class rank. It is possible for a student who does not take any AP or CIS courses to have a higher GPA and class rank than a student who takes one or more AP or CIS courses due to earning lower grades in the AP/CIS courses. A weighted GPA would reward the student who takes a rigorous course that has the potential of awarding college credit.

PROCESS: Dr. Steve Massey, principal of FLAHS, in collaboration with FLAHS staff and district administration began the work of researching the pros and cons of grade weighting. The process included: 1) Contacting five colleges to determine their practice in considering grade weighting and class rank as they consider enrollment and scholarship opportunities for student applicants; 2) Contacting schools within the FLAHS athletic conference as well as other neighboring schools to see their practice in weighting grades; 3) Discussion of findings with FLAHS leadership groups, district administration and the School Board Staff Welfare Committee; 4) Creation of points to consider in appropriately advising students concerning academic readiness for rigorous courses of study and academic balance, as well as monitoring the effect such a change may have on students choices of elective courses. The summary of the work involved, along with full recommendation of those involved is attached.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of plan to apply weighted grades and class rank changes for the 2015-16 school year.

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, Forest Lake Area High School will apply weighted grades earned in all courses taken at FLAHS that offer college credit, with the exception of courses operating under articulation agreements. This would include all AP courses, College in the School Schools Courses (University of Minnesota), College Now courses (Southwest State University), and concurrent enrollment courses offered through community and technical colleges. The weighting factor would be 1.25.

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, class rank for all students will no longer be posted on student transcripts. Class rank will still be calculated and made available for students who are applying to colleges or for scholarship that require a class rank. In these cases, the class rank calculated from weighted GPAs will be reported.