




NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Qaiyaan Harcharek, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: Rich Carlson, Superintendent 

FROM: Liz Noble, Director of Curriculum and Instruction 

DATE: October 7, 2021

SUBJECT: AR 5126, Achievement and Awards

Memo No. SB22-043
(Information Item)

NSBSD Strategic Plan Goal:

1.0 Student Success: All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Inupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas and focusing on the development of the Whole Child.

Issue Summary:

The Curriculum Committee met on August 30, 2021 and recommended an Administrative Regulation to Board Policy 5126, Achievement and Awards, to establish a process of “what to do in the event of a GPA tie.”

The Administrative Regulation’s recommended language, in support and alignment of BP 5126 is as follows:

AR 5126, Awards for Achievement:

Determination of Valedictorian, and Salutatorian, for currently enrolled high school students, the selection of Valedictorian, and Salutatorian, will be determined at the end of the 2nd semester of the graduating class's senior year. The selection for Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined based on an unweighted grade point scale. The student with the highest GPA will be selected as Valedictorian. The student with the second highest GPA will be selected as the Salutatorian. GPA will be determined via PowerSchool, rounded to the ten-thousandths place (4 decimal points). In the event of a tie in GPA, more than one Valedictorian, or Salutatorian, will be identified.

Students earning a modified diploma, Certificate of Completion, are not eligible for Valedictorian, or Salutatorian, class ranking.

- The determination will be made following 8 Semesters of high school classes.
- Must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 classes, each semester, of your senior year.
- To be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, you must have completed you Junior and Senior year in the North Slope Borough School District
- Courses must be for credit
- Study Hall credit will not be included in the GPA.

Background:

Board Policy 5126, Awards for Achievement states:

The School Board encourages excellence as a goal for all students and wishes to publicly recognize students for unique or exemplary achievements in academic, extracurricular or community service activities.

Student awards may include verbal recognition, a letter, certificate or Board resolution, a public ceremony, or a sum of money.

The Board shall budget funds for an awards recognition program at each school site, to be administered by the site administrator in accordance with established site procedures.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian is the highest academic award for a graduating senior. This award is bestowed upon the student(s) with the highest grade point average during high school. Salutatorian is awarded to the student(s) with the next highest grade point average. To be eligible, students must have completed their junior and senior year in a district school, must be enrolled in at least six classes each semester during their senior year., ~~and must have passed all sections of the state competency exam, as required by law.~~ All courses must be for credit and no classes can be a study hall.

Nonschool Awards

The Superintendent or designee may approve or reject proposed trophies, prizes, or other awards from nonschool donors. The purpose of any such proposed award must be consistent with school goals, and criteria for making the award must be either under professional staff control or acceptable to the staff. Such awards shall be rejected when offered primarily to achieve personal or corporate gain and publicity.

When funded by the state legislature, each high school shall select one student as a legislative guest in accordance with procedures established by the site administrator