

No. _____



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: _____ May 19, 2010 _____

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 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 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 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as outlined in the administrative guidelines for placement and awarding of credit for homeschooled students.

WEIGHTED GRADING
SYSTEM

Beginning with the 1999–2000 school year, 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.

Weighted courses are as follows:

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1. All Pre-Advanced Placement;
2. All Advanced Placement;
3. ~~All IB;~~ **Scientific Research and Design**
4. ~~All Gifted and Talented;~~ and **Research Design and Development**
5. College Prep (local).

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.

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
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

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Non-weighted	Weighted
72	82
71	81
70	80

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

WEIGHTED GRADE
SCALE

The following courses continue to be weighted for students entering 9th grade in 2010 and thereafter:

- 1. All Pre-AP Advanced Placement**
- 2. All Advanced Placement**
- 3. Scientific Research and Design**
- 4. Research Design and Development**

Beginning with the students who entered the 8th grade in 2009-2010 the following courses shall be weighted in addition to those mentioned above:

- 5. Anatomy and Physiology**
- 6. World Health Research**
- 7. Retailing and E-tailing**
- 8. Securities and Investments**
- 9. Internetworking I and II**
- 10. Engineering Design and Presentation**

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 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (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 signifi-

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cant modifications to the TEKS through a student's individualized education program (IEP).

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