

**PROPOSED REVISIONS: 12.6.2023 (Clean Copy)**

**Consistent Application for Graduating Class** The District shall apply the same class rank calculation method and rules for local graduation honors for all students in a graduating class, regardless of the school year in which a student first earned high school credit. **Grades earned in middle school are not included in GPA calculations.**

**Calculation** The District shall include in the calculation of class rank only grades earned for high school credit taken in grades 9–12 in the following subjects:

Four courses (eight semesters) in English;

Four courses (eight semesters) in mathematics;

Four courses (eight semesters) in science;

Five courses in social studies (eight semesters); and

Two courses (four semesters) in languages other than English.

The calculation shall include failing grades until a failing grade is replaced with a passing grade.

**Exclusions** **The class rank calculation shall not include semester grades from a course that is retaken after a passing grade has been earned, and the new grade shall not be recorded on the transcript.**

Beginning with the graduating class of 2025, the calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned by any credit recovery method.

**Weighted Grade System** The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced and Standard in accordance with provisions of this policy.

Categories

*Advanced Courses*

Eligible Advanced Placement (AP), honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual credit courses designated in the course planning guide shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced courses.

*Standard Courses*

All other eligible courses shall be designated as Standard courses.

**Weighted Grade Point Average** The District shall convert grades earned in eligible courses to grade points and shall calculate a weighted grade point average (GPA) in accordance with the following chart:

Grade	Advanced	Standard
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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
CLASS RANKING

EIC  
(LOCAL)

90–100	5.0	4.0
80–89	4.0	3.0
70–79	3.0*	2.0
<70	0.0	0.0

A grade of 60-69 in a dual credit course shall receive high school credit, and the grade shall be converted to a 70 for purposes of calculating class rank.

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if similar or equivalent courses are offered to the same class of students in the District.

**Local Graduation Honors**

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank using grades available at the time of calculation, at the end of the final school year, seven days before the last regular day of attendance for seniors.

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)]

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**Note:** The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027.

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Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian and salutatorian criteria shall be the following:

- All of the eligible students with a 5.0 GPA shall be recognized as valedictorians.
- All of the eligible students with the next highest GPA shall be recognized as salutatorians.

To be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the same high school in the District for his or her entire senior year immediately preceding graduation;
2. Have completed the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program with endorsements;

3. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; however, students who will not be classified as seniors during both the fall and spring semesters of the graduating and awarding year may become eligible for the honors by filing a written declaration of intent to graduate with the building principal on or before the tenth day of school; and
4. Have carried at least six classes each semester; however, exceptions must be approved by the administration, (e.g., students on homebound instruction or students concurrently enrolled in a university)

**Breaking Ties for  
Texas Scholarship**

In case of a tie for the highest-ranking student, the District shall compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken.

**Highest Ranking  
Graduate**

The local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall not affect recognition of the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the scholarship certificate from the state of Texas.

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**Note:** The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2028.

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The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second-highest rank, respectively. To be eligible for this local graduation honors, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the same high school in the District for his or her entire senior year immediately preceding graduation;
2. Have completed the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program with endorsements;
3. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; however, students who will not be classified as seniors during both the fall and spring semesters of the graduating and awarding year may become eligible for the honors by filing a written declaration of intent to graduate with the building principal on or before the tenth day of school; and
4. Have carried at least six classes each semester; however, exceptions must be approved by the administration, (e.g., students on homebound instruction or students concurrently enrolled in a university)

Honors Graduates

A student with a 4.0 or higher earned GPA shall be recognized as an honors graduate according to the following (no rounding shall apply):

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT  
CLASS RANKING

EIC  
(LOCAL)

- Summa Cum Laude: 5.0-4.8
- Magna Cum Laude: 4.7-4.5
- Cum Laude: 4.4-4.0

**Breaking Ties for  
Texas Scholarship**

In case of a tie for the highest-ranking student, the District shall compute the weighted numerical grade average to a sufficient number of decimal places until the tie is broken.

**Highest Ranking  
Graduate**

The student meeting the local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall also be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.