



Agenda of Policy Committee Meeting

The Board of Trustees Belton Independent School District

A Policy Committee Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Belton Independent School District will be held May 3, 2021, beginning at 5:00 PM in the Big Red Room, 400 N. Wall Street, Belton, TX 76513. One or more trustees may participate via video conference.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the same order as shown on this meeting notice.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comments**
- 3. Review and Discuss the Following Items:**
 - A. TASB Policy Review Discussion 2
 - B. FFAC(LOCAL): Wellness and Health Services - Medical Treatment - 1st Reading 3
 - C. EIC(LOCAL): Academic Achievement - Class Ranking - Learning/Study 8
- 4. Issues/Concerns for Future Agenda or Administrative Reports**
- 5. Adjourn**

POLICY REVIEW SESSION

WHAT IS A POLICY REVIEW SESSION?

A policy review session (PRS) offers a comprehensive review of a district's policies to ensure that they are up-to-date and consistent with changing district practice.

HOW OFTEN DO WE NEED ONE?

Policy Service recommends a thorough policy review every **five to seven years**—sooner if your district's local practices or philosophies have shifted.

IT'S TIME FOR A POLICY REVIEW WHEN:

- ✓ A district discovers significant discrepancies between board policy and current administrative practice.
- ✓ It has been 5–7 years since the district's last PRS.
- ✓ There has been a change in district leadership.

CONTACT YOUR POLICY CONSULTANT TO BEGIN THE PRS PROCESS

THE POLICY REVIEW PROCESS



Student Illness ~~Procedures shall be established by the administration to ensure that proper attention is given to any student who becomes ill during the course of a school day.~~

Accidents Involving Students ~~Emergency procedures shall be established by the administration to ensure proper attention for any student injured at school. Records shall be maintained on all accidents that require the attention of a medical doctor.~~

Emergency Treatment Forms ~~Each year, students and parents shall complete and sign a form that provides emergency information and authorizes school officials to obtain emergency medical treatment, as provided by law.~~

Administering Medication No employee shall give any student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements of any type, ~~except as authorized by this or other District policy~~ **provided below.**

Medication Exceptions ~~Employees authorized by the~~ The Superintendent shall designate the employees who are authorized to ~~or designee may~~ administer medication that has been provided by a student's parent. An authorized employee is permitted to administer the following medication in accordance with administrative regulations ~~to~~ **students:**

Provided by Parent

1. Prescription medication in accordance with legal requirements. [See FFAC(LEGAL)]
2. Nonprescription medication for a period of up to five days, upon a parent's written request, and when the nonprescription medication is properly labeled and in the original container. A written request by a physician or other health-care professional with authority to write prescriptions shall be required when the nonprescription medication must be administered for a longer period.
3. Herbal substances or dietary supplements provided by the parent and only if required by the individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan of a student with disabilities.

Provided by District

4. Nonprescription medication provided on an emergency basis by the District and consistent with:
 - a. Protocols established by the District's medical advisor who must be licensed to practice medicine in the state of Texas; and

- b. Parental consent given on the emergency treatment form.

Epinephrine

The District authorizes school personnel who have agreed in writing and been adequately trained to administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector in accordance with law and this policy. Administration of epinephrine shall only be permitted when an authorized and trained individual reasonably believes a person is experiencing anaphylaxis.

On Campus

Authorized and trained individuals may administer an unassigned epinephrine auto-injector at any time to a person experiencing anaphylaxis on a school campus.

The District shall ensure that at each campus a sufficient number of authorized individuals personnel are trained to administer epinephrine so that at least one trained individual is present on campus during all hours the campus is open. In accordance with state rules, the campus shall be considered open for this purpose during regular on-campus school hours and whenever school personnel are physically on site for school-sponsored activities.

In accordance with state rules, the campus shall be considered open for this purpose during regular on-campus school hours and whenever school personnel are physically on site for organized school-sponsored activities involving in-person student participation.

Maintenance, Availability, and Training

The Superintendent ~~maintenance, administration, and disposal of epinephrine auto-injectors at each campus in the District shall be the responsibility of the District health services department. The District health services department~~ shall develop administrative regulations designating a coordinator ~~District protocols~~ to manage policy implementation and addressing ~~that include development of~~ annual training of authorized individuals ~~school personnel~~ in accordance with law; procedures for auto-injector use and ~~procedures for~~ acquisition or purchase, maintenance, expiration, disposal, and availability of unassigned epinephrine auto-injectors at each campus.

~~The District health services department shall provide training to campus staff on the following:~~

- ~~1. Recognition of the signs and symptoms associated with life-threatening allergic reactions/anaphylaxis;~~
- ~~2. How and when to administer an epinephrine auto-injector;~~
- ~~3. Implementation of emergency procedures after an epinephrine auto-injector is given; and~~

~~4. Proper disposition of used or expired epinephrine auto-injectors.~~

Notice to Parents

In accordance with law, the District shall provide notice to parents regarding the epinephrine program, including notice of any change to or discontinuation of this program.

Psychotropics

Except as permitted by law ~~Education Code 38.016~~, an employee shall not:

1. Recommend to a student or a parent that the student use a psychotropic drug;
2. Suggest a particular diagnosis; or
3. Exclude the student from a class or a school-related activity because of the parent's refusal to consent to psychiatric evaluation or examination or treatment of the student.

Medical Treatment

A student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control shall annually complete and sign a form that provides emergency information and addresses authorization regarding medical treatment. A student who has reached age 18 shall be permitted to complete this form.

4. The district shall seek appropriate emergency care for a student as required or deemed necessary.

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Discussion on EIC (LOCAL)



May 3, 2021

Purpose

To continue to engage in discussion on EIC(LOCAL) and how this policy impacts a student's learning experience. 9

Driving Questions

- How does ranking Belton ISD students impact them during their college admissions process (for students outside of the top 10%)?
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- What barriers exist that prevent students from following their pathway?
- How does class rank and course weighting impact Journey of a Graduate competencies?

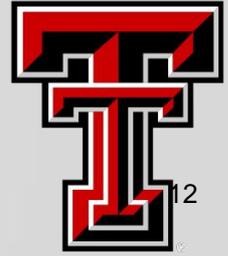
Could Belton ISD system changes impact university acceptance for our students?

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Universities

- Ranking Admission
- Non-Ranking Admission
- Advanced Courses Admission



Higher Education Surveyed: A&M University, Baylor University, Texas State University, Texas Tech University, University of North Texas, University of Texas, University of Texas at San Antonio

Ranking for Admissions

When you are looking to admit a student coming from a ranking high school, what criteria do you use?

- Some universities look at class rank first (if available)
- Some universities have assured admissions
 - based on quartile rank
 - college admission exams
- Some universities conduct a holistic review of the application

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Non-Ranking for Admissions

How would the admissions process change from a high school that does not rank?

If a Texas high school does not rank, where do you see the impact?

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- Some universities create their own ranking system
- Some universities then shift to a holistic review
- Nothing changes to the admission process since the university already reviews holistically

Advanced Placement vs. Dual Credit

As you review transcripts for admissions, how are AP and dual credit courses considered? Is one type of course valued more than the other?

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- Most universities prefer to see advanced courses
- Advanced courses treated as the same regardless of DC, AP, Honors
 - Why? Not all applicants have access to the same course options in high school

Colleges of Study

What about admissions to a specific college within the university (business, communications, etc.)? Is their admission criteria different? If so, what is it based on?

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- No clear answer or consistent practice
- Varies by university when students apply
- Different requirements, and can change with new department chair, dean, or faculty recommendation

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.

Disruption of Normal Grading Practices

If the District experiences a significant disruption in the ability to collect grades for calculating weighted grade point average (GPA) and class rank, the Board may consider a Board resolution to modify provisions in this policy.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2022.

Calculation

Class rank and weighted grade point average (GPA) shall be based on semester grades earned in English, mathematics beyond Algebra I, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English beyond Level 1, and all dual credit courses and dual enrollment OnRamps courses in these areas. The weighted grade average shall also include grades earned in all Advanced Placement (AP) dual credit courses in EMT, engineering, and computer science. Courses receiving more than one credit for a single class period shall be calculated as one credit.

Exclusion

The calculation of a student's GPA, both unweighted and weighted, for class rank shall exclude grades earned in middle school; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; local credit courses; summer school courses taken for remediation or acceleration; dual credit courses not reflected on the student's class schedule during the fall or spring semesters or during the summer; distance learning in the form of traditional correspondence courses or credit recovery or for remediation; or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

Weighted Grade System

The District shall categorize and weight courses in accordance with provisions of this policy and EIC(EXHIBIT).

Categories

Level 4

Eligible AP courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 4 courses.

Level 3

Eligible dual credit, OnRamps, and Pre-AP courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 3 courses.

Level 2

All Regular courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 2 courses.

Level 1

Skills-Based courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 1 courses.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Weighted Grade
Point Average

The District shall convert the semester grade to grade points in accordance with the weighted grade points chart published in EIC(EXHIBIT) to determine a weighted GPA.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of 2021.

Calculation

Graduation requirements and plans specified for each grade level shall have no bearing on the GPAs that determine class rank and honor graduates; honor graduate status shall be determined by weighted grade average only. Class rank at the end of the junior year shall be used for college application purposes.

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in all high school credit courses taken in grades 9–12, unless excluded below. Grades earned in courses taken prior to grade 9 shall not be included in the calculation of class rank. Courses receiving more than one credit for a single class period shall be calculated as one credit.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, the graduating class of Belton High School shall include Belton High School students and Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow students.

Class rank and weighted grade averages shall be based on semester grades earned in English, mathematics beyond Algebra I, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English beyond Level 1, and all dual credit courses in these areas. The weighted grade average shall also include grades earned in all AP courses, dual enrollment OnRamps courses, and dual credit courses in the areas of engineering, computer programming, computer science, technology, and web design.

A grade below a 70 shall not be weighted.

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in middle school; a course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; local credit courses; summer school courses taken for remediation or acceleration; dual credit courses not reflected on the student's class schedule during the fall or spring semesters or during the summer; distance learning in the form of traditional correspondence courses or credit recovery or for remediation; or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

Weighted Grade
System

Pre-AP and honors courses shall receive 10 additional points per semester grade, and AP courses shall receive 20 additional points per semester grade.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Eligible dual credit and OnRamps courses shall receive 15 additional points per semester grade.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to all students, regardless of their graduating class.

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under at least the Level 1 category and the District has accepted the credit, the District shall include the grades in the calculation of class rank.

When a student transfers semester grades for courses from an accredited school that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if the same 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 at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year. The third nine-week grading period grade shall be used as the semester grade for the purpose of GPA calculation for all courses with the exception of dual credit.

Dual credit courses included in the third nine-week grading period shall include the final grade for the course if a grade is received by May 15. Courses for which grades are not received shall not be included in the rank at the third nine-week period for senior rank.

For the purpose of applications to institutions of higher education, the District shall also calculate class rank 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 rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second-highest rank based on the weighted GPA or weighted grade average, respectively.

A valedictorian and salutatorian shall be named at Belton High School, Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow, and Lake Belton High School.

To be eligible for such recognition, a student must have:

1. Been a registered, full-time student at the campus of graduation during the last four semesters prior to graduation. To be considered registered for a full semester, a student must enroll no later than the close of school on the tenth day of the beginning of the first semester.
2. Been enrolled in at least four academic courses each year of high school.

Early graduates (three-year graduates) may participate in the graduation ceremony but shall not be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors.

The final class rank shall become a permanent record on the academic achievement record (AAR); no re-ranking shall occur after graduation for transcript purposes.

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted GPAs or weighted grade averages after calculation to the fourth decimal place among the top ranked students, the District shall calculate the numerical grade averages of all Pre-AP and AP courses taken in grades 9–12 to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian.

If the tie is not broken after applying these methods, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title.

Honor Graduates

A student ranked within the top 15 percent of his or her graduating class shall be designated as an honor graduate. District honor graduates shall include the following:

1. Students whose class rank is within the top two percent of the graduating class shall be designated summa cum laude graduates.
2. Students whose class rank is within the top three to five percent of the graduating class shall be designated magna cum laude graduates.
3. Students whose class rank is within the top six to ten percent of the graduating class shall be designated cum laude graduates.
4. Students whose class rank is within the top 11 to 15 percent of the graduating class shall be designated as graduating with honors.

When calculating the number of students in a specific percentile of a graduating class, the number shall be rounded to a whole number.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

**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.

*Belton High
School and
Belton New Tech
High School @
Waskow*

Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, between the student named valedictorian for Belton High School and the student named valedictorian for Belton New Tech High School @ Waskow, the highest-ranking student among the named valedictorians shall be considered the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.

Early Graduation

A student wishing to graduate early must obtain an early graduation application from the principal's office. Completed applications for three-year graduates should be returned by May 1 of the sophomore year. A student who has declared his or her intent to graduate in three school years and has completed a minimum of 16 credits shall be included in the senior year rank.