

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

INTENT OF POLICY	The purpose of this policy is to describe the process used by the District to calculate a student's weighted numerical grade average and to determine the weighted academic class rank.
CLASS RANK CALCULATION	<p>Class rank shall only be determined for the top ten percent of each class. Class rank shall not be recorded on student transcripts.</p> <p>The District shall provide to each student in the top ten percent a certificate of class rank containing the student's specific numerical rank out of the specific total class size.</p>
WEIGHTED GRADE SYSTEM CATEGORIES	The District shall categorize and weight courses in accordance with the provisions of this policy. All courses that are state approved and may be used for graduation shall be assigned difficulty levels and corresponding course grade multipliers. The levels of courses shall be regular, Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) and Advanced Placement (AP).
REGULAR COURSES	<p>Regular courses shall provide a challenging curriculum based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).</p> <p>Beginning with students who enter grade 9 in the 2012–13 school year, all students shall be required to take a minimum of four regular level course credits during high school to be used in the calculation for class rank and the top ten percent. A student shall complete three of the four required regular course credits prior to the beginning of his or her senior year.</p>
PRE-AP COURSES	Pre-AP courses extend and enrich the TEKS. They shall be academically rigorous courses that provide the skills and strategies students need to succeed in future AP courses.
AP COURSES	AP courses provide a college-level curriculum and are nationally recognized for their advanced level of curriculum. Students may earn college credit for these courses. Eligible courses that exceed AP courses shall also be included at this level.
WEIGHTED NUMERICAL GRADE AVERAGE	The District shall assign weights to semester grades and shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average in accordance with the following scale:

Category	Weight
Regular	multiplied by 1.0
Pre-AP	multiplied by 1.1
AP	multiplied by 1.2

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The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

All multiple period classes, both regular and special education, shall be counted only once in computing weighted numerical grade average and class rank. The weighted numerical grade averages for all eligible courses shall be totaled and divided by the number of courses taken. The weighted numerical grade average shall be rounded to two decimal places.

The District shall include a student's final grade, including scores from end-of-course (EOC) assessments, on his or her transcript, but the EOC score shall not be included in the calculations of weighted numerical grade averages and the top ten percent for purposes of class rank.

EXCLUDED
COURSES

The following courses shall be excluded when calculating the weighted numerical grade average:

1. Traditional correspondence courses;
2. Out-of-District online courses;
3. In-District online credit recovery courses;
4. Summer school courses;
5. Credit by examination;
6. College and/or dual credit courses except those taken through the District; and
7. High school courses taken in middle school.

FAILING GRADES

When a student fails a course for the semester and subsequently repeats the course and earns a passing grade, both numerical grade averages shall be recorded on the transcript and used in the calculation of the overall grade average.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

A student's transferred grade shall have the District's course grade multiplier applied to the semester average if the transcript provides appropriate documentation to determine the level of the course and the District offers a parallel course to current prospective graduates.

Letter grades shall be converted as follows:

Grade Conversion Chart

A+	98	B+	88	C+	78	D	70
A	95	B	85	C	75	F	50
A-	92	B-	82	C-	72		

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WEIGHTED ACADEMIC CLASS RANK DEFINITION Weighted academic class rank shall be determined by the cumulative weighted numerical grade average of all final semester grades (except the end of the spring semester of the senior year) earned in specified high school courses delineated in this policy.

Weighted academic class rank shall be used to determine valedictorian, salutatorian, and the exact top ten percent of the class as reported to state universities.

REPORTING PERIOD Weighted academic class rank shall be determined at the following discrete times:

1. The end of the fall semester of the sophomore year,
2. The end of the spring semester of the sophomore year,
3. The end of the fall semester of the junior year,
4. The end of the spring semester of the junior year,
5. The end of the fall semester of the senior year, and
6. The end of the fifth six weeks of the senior year.

After each calculation period, students in the top ten percent shall be told their exact class rank. The lowest weighted numerical grade average of students currently in the top ten percent of the class shall be communicated to all students in the class after each calculation period.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN The valedictorian and the salutatorian shall be the two students with the highest weighted numerical grade average who also meet the following qualifications:

1. Attendance at Westlake High School for four entire, consecutive, regular semesters prior to graduation.
2. Graduation in no more than or no fewer than four years.

TIES In case of a tie for valedictorian, the student with the highest weighted numerical grade average of all AP courses taken shall be the valedictorian.

EARLY GRADUATES To be eligible to graduate early, a student shall complete all coursework and exit-level testing required of the grade 9 class in which he or she begins high school.

Early graduates shall be eligible for honors recognition other than valedictorian and salutatorian.

HONOR GRADUATES The top ten percent of the graduating class based on the weighted academic class rank shall be recognized as honor graduates.