

**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.

Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses taken at any grade level, unless excluded below.

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

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in any course for which a pass/fail grade is assigned; any dual credit course; any distance learning course; any course taken through credit recovery program; an evening or night school course; a summer school course taken anywhere other than the District; or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2021, a student shall have the option to exclude from his or her class rank calculation grades earned in grade 11 or grade 12 in an eligible physical education course, athletics course, or performing arts course.

**Weighted Grade
System**

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced, Honors, and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Categories

*Advanced
Courses*

Eligible Advanced Placement (AP) courses shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced courses.

Honors Courses

Eligible Pre-AP courses and other courses locally designated as honors courses shall be categorized and weighted as Honors courses.

Regular Courses

All other eligible courses shall be designated as Regular courses.

**Weighted Numerical
Grade Average**

The District shall assign weights to semester grades earned in eligible courses and calculate a weighted numerical grade average in accordance with the following:

Category	Weight
Advanced	plus 10
Honors	plus 7
Regular	plus 0

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

No points shall be added to failing grades.

The District shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts.

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the Regular 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 that would be eligible to receive additional weight under the District's weighted grade system, the District shall assign additional weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District if a similar or equivalent course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

**Local Graduation
Honors**

For the purpose of determining the honor of valedictorian and salutatorian 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 third nine-week grading period of the senior year.

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)]

The District shall only report a student's rank in class to those students in the top ten percent. For each student in the top ten percent, the student's specific numerical rank out of the specific total class size shall be recorded on the student's transcript. Class rank shall not be recorded on student transcripts for students not in the top ten percent.

Early Graduates

A student graduating in fewer than four years shall be eligible for all honors recognitions upon graduation.

Valedictorian and
Salutatorian

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second-highest rank, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must:

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school program for the two regular school years immediately preceding graduation; and
2. Have completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement.

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages, the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian:

1. Count the number of AP courses taken by each student involved in the tie; the student with the greatest number of courses shall be named valedictorian.
2. Compute the weighted numerical grade average of AP courses taken by each student involved in the tie; the student with the highest weighted numerical grade average of AP courses shall be named valedictorian.
3. Compare the amount of time each student has been enrolled in the District for each student involved in the tie; the student enrolled for the greatest length of time shall be named valedictorian.
4. Compare scores on standardized college entrance tests, if the same tests were taken by all students involved in the tie; the student with the highest score on the standardized college entrance exam shall be named valedictorian.

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.

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.

Honor Graduates

The District shall recognize as an honor graduate each student who has completed the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement and earned a weighted numerical grade average as established in administrative regulations. Scholastic honors shall include recognition as magna cum laude, summa cum laude, and cum laude.