

**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 in grades 9–12 in the following subject areas only: English, mathematics, science, social studies, languages other than English, or any Advanced Placement (AP) course.

The calculation shall include failing grades.

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in any dual credit course; summer school; any distance learning course; other instructional arrangements; or through credit by examination, with or without prior instruction.

**Weighted Grade
System**

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Tier III, Tier II, and Tier I in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Categories

Tier III

Eligible AP courses shall be categorized and weighted as Tier III courses.

Tier II

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

Tier I

All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Tier I 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
Tier III	plus 15
Tier II	plus 10
Tier I	plus 0

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 Tier I 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 the grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District only 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 honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank in accordance with this policy and administrative regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fifth six-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)]

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

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

1. Have been continuously enrolled in the District high school for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation;
2. Be graduating after exactly eight semesters of enrollment in high school; and
3. Have completed the Recommended Program, the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program, or the foundation program with at least one endorsement.

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted numerical grade averages after calculation to the ten-thousandths place, the District shall calculate a weighted numerical grade average using only the eligible courses in Tier III taken by each student involved in the tie 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.

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.