
Note: The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating class of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Honor Awards

Valedictorian and
Salutatorian

A valedictorian and a salutatorian shall be selected from each graduating class in each high school. The following provisions shall govern the selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian.

All courses that earn high school credit and grade points, including those taken in middle school or elementary school, shall be used to calculate the final class ranking. The student with the highest grade point average (GPA) shall be the valedictorian, and the student with the second-highest GPA shall be the salutatorian.

To be eligible for valedictory or salutatory honors, the student shall have attended the same high school for four consecutive semesters with the exception of summer school immediately prior to graduation. The student must also complete either the State Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program.

Eligibility requirements for local honors shall not apply to calculation of the top ten percent for purposes of automatic admission. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

Calculation

A student's GPA shall be calculated at the end of the fifth grading period of the student's senior year to determine class ranking for local honors purposes and for the graduation ceremony.

Early Graduates
and Transfer
Students

Early graduates and transfer students shall be included in the class ranking. A student's class ranking shall be determined within the graduating class of the school year in which the student completes all requirements for a diploma, regardless of the number of years the student is enrolled in high school. For ranking purposes, a school year begins on the first day of school and ends on the last day of summer school.

A student who transfers into a District high school with higher-level course credits such as International Baccalaureate (IB), International Honors (IntH), Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-AP/Honors, or dual credit shall receive similar credits counted toward his or her GPA, in accordance with the list of higher-level courses offered to other students in the same graduating class at that District high school and the grade point scale used for credit earned in the District.

The IntH and IB grade point scale shall be used only for the IB courses at Garland High School. If a student transfers from Garland High School to another District school, the IntH and/or IB

grade points shall not be transferred; they will, however, be converted to honors grade points and transferred accordingly.

Grade Point Table

Students in grades 7 and 8 who take high school courses shall be awarded grade points for those courses. The list of designated courses that earn grade points for class rank as set out below may be found on the District’s website. Not all high school courses earn grade points.

The following grade point table indicates the grade point system used for all high school courses:

Semester Grade	IntH/IB	Honors / Pre- AP/AP	Dual Credit	Regular	Basic
97–100	18	15	13.5	12	9
94–96	17	14	12.5	11	8
90–93	16	13	11.5	10	7
87–89	15	12	10.5	9	6
84–86	14	11	9.5	8	5
80–83	13	10	8.5	7	4
77–79	12	9	7.5	6	3
74–76	11	8	6.5	5	2
70–73	10	7	5.5	4	1

**Grade Point
Average**

The total grade points shall be divided by three, and the resulting number shall be divided by the total number of semester courses attempted that receive grade points. These calculations are designed to reflect differences in grouping levels and to determine student GPAs.

**Procedures for Ties
in Grade Point
Averages**

The following steps shall be taken in the case of a tie for valedictorian, salutatorian, or a position in the top ten percent of the graduating class:

Step 1

For students who are tied, the District will calculate the GPAs to six decimal places.

Step 2

In case of a tie in Step 1, the District will determine which student has the higher/highest GPA for the last term for which the student received grade points. If a tie still exists, the District will continue to evaluate each previous term’s GPA until the tie is broken.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2023.

Honor Awards

Valedictorian and
Salutatorian

A valedictorian and a salutatorian shall be selected from each graduating class in each high school. The following provisions shall govern the selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian.

All courses that earn high school credit and grade points, including those taken in middle school or elementary school, shall be used to calculate the final class ranking. The student with the highest grade point average (GPA) shall be the valedictorian, and the student with the second-highest GPA shall be the salutatorian.

To be eligible for valedictory or salutatory honors, the student shall have attended the same high school for four consecutive semesters with the exception of summer school immediately prior to graduation. The student must also complete the foundation program with the distinguished level of achievement with one endorsement.

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)]

Calculation

A student's GPA shall be calculated at the end of the fifth grading period of the student's senior year to determine class ranking for local honors purposes and for the graduation ceremony.

**Early Graduates and
Transfer Students**

Early graduates and transfer students shall be included in the class ranking. A student's class ranking shall be determined within the graduating class of the school year in which the student completes all requirements for a diploma, regardless of the number of years the student is enrolled in high school. For ranking purposes, a school year begins on the first day of school and ends on the last day of summer school.

A student who transfers into a District high school with higher-level course credits such as International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), dual credit, International Honors (IntH), or Pre-AP/Honors, shall receive similar credits counted toward his or her GPA, in accordance with the list of higher-level courses offered to other students in the same graduating class at that District high school and the grade point scale used for credit earned in the District.

Grade points for IntH and IB grade point scale shall be used qualified campuses and grade points for Accelerated Math and Science (AMS) College courses (Calculus III, Discrete Math, Differential Equations and Linear Algebra) shall be used at qualifying campuses. If a student transfers from a qualified campus to another District school that is not an IB or AMS-qualified campus, the IntH, IB, or AMS college course grade points shall not be transferred; they will, however, be converted to Level 4 course grade points and transferred accordingly.

Grade Point Table

Students in middle school who take high school courses shall be awarded grade points for those courses. The list of designated courses that earn grade points for class rank as set out below may be found on the District’s website. Not all high school courses earn grade points.

The following grade point table indicates the grade point system used for all high school courses:

Semester Grade	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 4a With passing AP Exam	Level 5	Level 5a With passing IB Exam
97–100	9	12	13.5	15	16.5	18	19.5
94–96	8	11	12.5	14	15.5	17	18.5
90–93	7	10	11.5	13	14.5	16	17.5
87–89	6	9	10.5	12	13.5	15	16.5
84–86	5	8	9.5	11	12.5	14	15.5
80–83	4	7	8.5	10	11.5	13	14.5
77–79	3	6	7.5	9	10.5	12	13.5
74–76	2	5	6.5	8	9.5	11	12.5
70–73	1	4	5.5	7	8.5	10	11.5

Course Levels

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications. All courses that lead to college credit, a professional credential, or specialized program of study are considered Level 4 or Level 5 courses.

Level 1 Eligible Basic courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 1 courses.

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

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

Level 3	Eligible International Honors (Inth), Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP), and Honors (H) courses shall be weighted as Level 3 courses.
Level 4	Eligible Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Credit (DC), Math Science Technology (MST), Accelerated Math & Science (AMS), and Advanced Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses shall be categorized and weighted as Level 4 courses.
Level 4a	One- and one-half weighted points shall be added to the numerical grade average calculation for a score of 3 or higher on the College Board AP exam, provided students completed the AP course. No additional points for the AP examination shall be added for AP tests taken in a student's senior year.
Level 5	Eligible International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and AMS college courses (Calculus III, Discrete Math, Differential Equations and Linear Algebra) shall be categorized and weighted as Level 5 courses.
Level 5a	One- and one-half weighted points shall be added to the numerical grade average calculation for a score of 4 or higher on the International Baccalaureate (IB) exam, provided students completed the IB course. No additional points for the IB examination shall be added for IB tests taken in a student's senior year.
Grade Point Average	The total grade points shall be divided by three, and the resulting number shall be divided by the total number of semester courses attempted that receive grade points. These calculations are designed to reflect differences in grouping levels and to determine student GPAs.
Breaking Ties	In case of a tie after the calculation to the sixth decimal place, the District shall determine recognition for valedictorian, salutatorian, or a position in the top ten percent of the graduating class for the student that has the higher/highest GPA for the last term for which the student received grade points. If a tie still exists, the District shall continue to evaluate each previous term's GPA until the tie is broken.