
Note: The following provisions shall apply to students in the graduating classes of 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Recognition of Achievement

Students who distinguish themselves academically during their secondary public school education in the District shall receive recognition for those achievements. Recognition of achievement shall include designation as valedictorian or salutatorian, top ten graduate, honor graduate, or other campus recognition of academic achievement.

Rank in Class

Rank in class for students in grades 9–12 shall be determined by using grades earned in required, state-approved courses and state-approved substitute courses.

Grade Point Average

The following provisions shall apply to students who were in the sophomore class before the 2016–17 school year. All courses shall be used in computing a student's grade point average (GPA) with the following exceptions:

1. Correspondence courses and distance learning courses, including courses taken through the Texas Virtual School Network (TXVSN).
2. Credit by examination.
3. Advanced Placement (AP) examinations.
4. Drivers education.
5. Local credit courses designated with "L" other than state-approved substitute courses for physical education, including athletics, cheerleading, drill team, and marching band (color guard).
6. Examination for acceleration.
7. Dual credit courses taught by college instructors.
8. High school credit courses taken prior to grade 9.

Effective with sophomore students in the 2016–17 school year, the following exceptions shall apply:

1. Correspondence courses and distance learning courses, including courses taken through TXVSN.
2. Credit by examination.
3. AP examinations.
4. Drivers education.

5. Local credit courses designated with “L” other than state-approved substitute courses for physical education, including athletic, cheerleading, drill team, and marching band (color guard).
6. Examination for acceleration.
7. Graduation courses taken prior to grade 9.

Effective with the freshmen in the 2016–17 school year, the following exceptions shall apply:

1. Credit by examination.
2. AP examinations.
3. Drivers education.
4. Local credit courses designated with “L” other than state-approved substitute courses for physical education, including athletics, cheerleading, drill team, and marching band (color guard).
5. Examination for acceleration.
6. High school credit courses taken prior to grade 9.

[See policies and instructional guidelines at codes EHDB, EHDC, EHDE, and EIF.]

Local Graduation Honors

The District shall recognize students who distinguish themselves academically during their secondary public school education in the District. Recognition of achievement shall include designation as valedictorian or salutatorian, top ten percent, honor graduate, top ten graduate, or other campus recognition of academic achievement. The District’s eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for purposes of automatic admission under state law.

Valedictorian / Salutatorian

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the two seniors graduating at the end of the spring semester who have attained the two highest overall scholastic GPAs for grades 9–11, and during the fall semester and the third nine-week grading period of grade 12, as determined by courses included in computing class rank.

Eligibility

To be eligible for valedictorian/salutatorian honors, a student shall:

1. Have maintained continuous enrollment and attended District schools throughout grades 10–12;
2. Have completed all courses and grades earned in grades 10–12 while continuously enrolled in the District;

3. Have carried at least a minimum course load at each grade level [see EED(LOCAL) and the *RISD Program of Studies*]; and
4. Be graduating under the foundation program.

These eligibility criteria shall also be communicated in the *RISD Program of Studies*.

Breaking Ties

In the event of a tie in the calculation of the two highest overall GPAs, which have been calculated to the sixth decimal place, the District shall calculate the GPAs to the eighth decimal place.

If reference to the GPA calculated to the eighth decimal place does not break the tie, the District shall count the number of courses the student took for which he/she received 10 quality points. The student who received 10 quality points in the most courses shall receive the honor.

If the tie is not broken after counting 10 quality point courses, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title. If the tie is at the valedictorian level, all students involved shall be considered valedictorian and no salutatorian shall be named.

Top Ten Graduates

Students designated as “top ten” graduates shall be the ten seniors graduating at the end of the spring semester with the highest scholastic averages in grades 9–11, and during the fall semester and the third nine-week grading periods of grade 12, as determined by courses included in computing class rank.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this honor, a student shall:

1. Have maintained continuous enrollment and attended District schools throughout grades 10–12;
2. Have completed all courses and grades earned in grades 10–12 while continuously enrolled in the District;
3. Have carried at least a minimum course load at each grade level [see EED(LOCAL) and the *RISD Program of Studies*]; and
4. Be graduating under the foundation program.

These eligibility criteria shall also be communicated in the *RISD Program of Studies*.

Honor Graduates

“Honor graduates” shall be those seniors who have attained an overall average of 90 or above for grades 9–11, and during the fall semester and third nine-week grading period of grade 12, as determined by courses included in computing class rank.

Eligibility Any student eligible to receive a diploma from the District shall be eligible for this honor.

Quality Points Students who enroll in advanced-level courses shall earn quality points in those courses for purposes of determining GPA, as follows:

1. At the end of the semester, passing grades earned in AP courses shall receive 10 quality points. (This change shall become effective with students who enter grade 9 for the first time in the 2013–14 school year. GPA and class rank for students who graduate early shall be calculated according to the calculation method in place for the class in which the student is graduating.) A student who entered grade 9 for the first time before the 2013–14 school year shall receive 8 quality points.
2. At the end of the semester, passing grades earned in honors, OnRamps, and Pre-AP courses shall receive 5 quality points. (Effective with sophomore students in the 2016–17 school year, at the end of the semester, passing grades earned in dual credit courses shall receive 5 quality points. A student who was in the sophomore class prior to the 2016–17 school year shall not receive quality points for dual credit courses.)

Grades Earned Outside of District For transfer students, all grades earned in AP, International Baccalaureate (IB), honors, Pre-AP, and, after the effective date described above, dual credit and OnRamps courses taken in other districts shall receive quality points if the following conditions are met:

1. The advanced-level courses from the other districts were taken in a sequence that is at least equivalent to the one followed in the District, as outlined in the *RISD Program of Studies*. If there are more than two categories of courses, only the highest level shall be accepted as an advanced-level course.
2. A student may not receive quality points in the District for any advanced-level courses taken in another district for which the sending district already has awarded quality points (or the equivalent) as reflected on the academic achievement record.
3. A student may not receive more quality points for a qualifying course taken in another district than would be awarded for the course under District policies and practices.
4. The District must receive documentation for the advanced-level courses taken in another district.
5. The course is one for which the District would award quality points.

New Students

Grades for students new to the District or who enroll in the District after the start of a grading period shall be computed by using a combination of grades from the former school and grades earned from the time the student enrolled in the District.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the graduating class of 2018–19.

The term “grade point average” (GPA) refers to the number that is calculated using grades earned in all eligible courses. The District calculates all students’ GPAs to the sixth decimal place. (Refer also to implementation timelines below for the year in which the calculations first apply.)

**Consistent
Application for
Graduating Class**

The District shall apply the same GPA calculation for the classes that all students in the graduating class earned in accordance with the particular dates set out herein.

**Calculation of Grade
Point Average**

The District shall calculate GPA for students in grades 9–12 once each school year after all semester grades are posted at the end of the spring semester.

Exception

The District shall calculate class GPA for graduating seniors at the end of the fall semester.

For local graduation honors, the District shall calculate GPA for graduating seniors after the end of the third nine weeks.

Top Ten Percent

The District shall calculate class rank annually only for the top ten percent of each class for grades 9–12.

For purposes of automatic admission to state colleges and universities, the District shall notify students in the top ten percent of their class at the end of the junior year, at the end of the fall semester of the senior year, and again at the end of the senior year. Class rank shall be reported as the student’s specific numeric ranking out of a specific class size.

All eligible courses earned at the end of grades 8–12 shall be used to calculate class rank for top ten percent and GPA.

Exclusions

For students entering grade 9 for the first time in the 2018–19 school year and thereafter, the following courses shall not be eligible for calculating rank or GPA:

1. Credit by examination [see EHBD and EHDC];
2. AP examinations;
3. Drivers education;

4. Local credit courses designated with “L”;
5. Other than state-approved substitute courses for physical education, including athletics, cheerleading, drill team, and marching band (color guard);
6. Examinations for acceleration [see EHBD]; and
7. Courses carrying graduation credit taken before the end of the eighth grade. A course carrying graduation credit taken for the first time during summer school after grade 8 shall count in rank/GPA.

Quality Points

Students entering grade 9 for the first time in the 2018–19 school year and thereafter who enroll in eligible advanced-level courses shall earn quality points for those courses for purposes of determining GPA as follows:

1. At the end of the semester, passing grades earned in eligible AP, nonarticulated dual credit, and OnRamps courses shall receive 10 quality points.
2. At the end of the semester, passing grades in eligible honors, Pre-AP, and articulated dual credit courses shall receive 5 quality points.

Refer to the *RISD Program of Studies* for courses eligible for quality points.

**Grades Earned
Outside of District**

When a student presents properly documented semester grades earned outside the District (e.g., grades from another U.S. public or private school, grades earned in a foreign country, grades earned from junior college, and the like) for graduation credit, the District shall add quality points to the grades according to this policy only if the same or equivalent courses are offered to students in the District. If the same or similar courses are not offered to District students, no quality points shall be added.

Exception

Grades earned in IB courses shall be considered like AP courses for the purposes of quality points. Refer to the *RISD Program of Studies* for guidelines concerning evaluation of transcripts for grades earned outside the District.

A student may not receive quality points for any advanced level courses taken in another district for which the sending district already has awarded quality points (or the equivalent) as reflected in the academic achievement record. A student shall not receive more District quality points for a qualifying course taken in another district than would be awarded for the course under District policies and practices.

New Students

Grades for students new to the District or who enroll in the District after the start of a grading period shall be computed using a combination of grades from the former school and grades earned from the time the student enrolled in the District.

Local Graduation Honors

The District shall recognize students who distinguish themselves academically during their secondary public school education in the District. Recognition of achievement shall include designation as valedictorian or salutatorian, top ten percent, honor graduate, top ten graduate, or other campus recognition of academic achievement. The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not restrict class rank for purposes of automatic admission under state law.

Valedictorian / Salutatorian

The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the two seniors graduating at the end of the spring semester at each District high school who have attained the two highest overall GPAs for grades 9–11 and grade 12 (during the fall semester and the third nine-week grading period).

Eligibility

To be eligible for valedictorian/salutatorian honors, a student shall:

1. Have maintained continuous enrollment and attended a District school throughout grades 10–12;
2. Have completed all courses and grades earned in grades 10–12 while continuously enrolled in the District;
3. Have carried at least a minimum course load at each grade level [see EED(LOCAL) and the *RISD Program of Studies*]; and
4. Be graduating under the foundation program.

Breaking Ties

In the event of a tie in the calculation of the two highest overall GPAs, which have been calculated to the sixth decimal place, the District shall calculate the GPAs to the eighth decimal place.

If reference to the GPA calculated to the eighth decimal place does not break the tie, the District shall count the number of classes the student took for which he/she received 10 quality points and the student with the most 10 quality-point classes shall receive the honor.

If the tie is not broken after counting 10 quality point courses, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title. If the tie is at the valedictorian level, all students involved shall be considered valedictorian and no salutatorian shall be named.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Honor Graduates | “Honor graduates” shall be those seniors graduating at the end of the spring semester who have attained an overall average of 90 or above for eligible courses in grades 9–12. |
| Top Ten Percent | The District shall provide to each student whose GPA is in the top ten percent of his or her graduating class a certificate of class rank that contains the student’s specific numeric rank out of a specific class size. Class rank shall not be recorded in the student’s academic achievement record (transcript). |