

Philosophy

The Board values the development of all students' social and emotional learning and well-being. In addition, the Board values supporting the attainment of all seven Profile of a Graduate attributes. The Board also desires to honor and recognize graduates who have attained high academic excellence.

Definitions

Grade Point
Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is calculated by multiplying each semester grade achieved, excluding GPA-exempt courses, by the number of credits the course was worth, calculating the sum of these values with any additional weights, and dividing by the total number of credits that were attempted.

Class Rank

A student's class rank is a measure of how a student's GPA compares to that of other students in the class.

GPA-Exempt
Course

GPA-exempt courses shall not be included when calculating a student's GPA or class rank. GPA-exempt courses are specified third- and fourth-year elective courses that encourage special skills and interests. Juniors and seniors shall be eligible to take specified courses on a GPA-exempt basis according to established guidelines set forth in administrative regulations.

Class Rank System

The District shall record Weighted 100 point scale, weighted 4.0 scale, and the unweighted 4.0 GPA on student transcripts. All courses recorded on the academic achievement record (high school transcript), with the exception of courses taken on a GPA-exempt basis, shall count toward GPA and class rank using the grades received. These courses shall be weighted by category when calculating GPA. Courses taken in fulfillment of an endorsement shall not be excluded from the GPA.

The following provisions address the District's class rank system for reporting purposes in accordance with state law.

The District's eligibility criteria for local graduation honors shall apply only for local recognitions and shall not supersede class rank for the purpose of automatic admission under state law. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

**Class Rank
Calculation**

The following provisions address the District's class rank system used for purposes of declaring local honors as well as for reporting purposes in accordance with state law.

For the graduating classes of 2020-2023, class ranks shall be determined by the District as follows:

- Following the ninth grade, class rank shall be released in October of the tenth grade year.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

- Following the tenth grade, class rank shall be released in September of the junior year.
- Following the 11th grade, class rank shall be released in June and September of the senior year.
- Midterm of the 12th grade class rank shall be released in January of the senior year.
- For graduating seniors, honor graduate recognition shall be calculated at the end of the third nine-week grading period and held for graduation purposes.

Beginning with the Class of 2024, class rank shall only be calculated for the top ten percent of each class for purposes of applications to institutions of higher education, as required by state law.

The District shall provide to each student in the top ten percent notice of class rank containing the student's specific numerical rank out of the specific total class size as determined the day rank is run as outlined in administrative procedures.

Top Ten Percent Rule

A student whose class rank falls within the top ten percent of the graduating class shall qualify for automatic admission in a general academic institution as provided by Education Code 51.803. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

Juniors and Seniors with a class rank in the top ten percent will be notified of their qualification for automatic admissions as required by law no later than the 14th day following the end of the 1st semester.

Transfer Grades

Each incoming student's GPA shall be converted to the system used by the District to determine both GPA and class rank. When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District, if the same course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

Early Graduation

Early graduates shall be ranked with the class with which they graduate. Calculations for GPA and class rank for three-year graduates shall be based upon the grade point scale and procedures for determining rank for the senior class with which they graduate.

Graduation Speakers

Selection of graduation speakers shall be based on neutral criteria designed to select the students who best exhibit the attributes of the Profile of a Graduate. [See FMH(LOCAL)]

**Beginning with
Students who enter a
Program of Choice in
2020–21**

A Program of Choice shall be defined as program with specialized offerings for which students must apply and be accepted. The campus the student attends shall be designated as the campus of accountability. [See ED(LOCAL)]

Beginning with the class of 2024, students in a Program of Choice shall be ranked with the students at the high school within the attendance boundary in which they reside.

Students in Programs of Choice shall declare UIL participation according to State UIL requirements and shall be administered by the Administration as set forth in administrative procedures. All other UIL rules apply.

**Students Impacted
by Cap and Overflow**

Students impacted by Cap and Overflow of their currently zoned High School are not considered as students enrolling in a Program of Choice or on an intradistrict transfer. These students will be ranked with students at the Cap and Overflow school if they attend that school as juniors and seniors. Once boundary lines are drawn, students will be ranked with the students with whom they will eventually graduate.

**Students Who are
Homeless or on a
Transfer**

For students experiencing homelessness [see FDC(LOCAL)], the campus of accountability and class rank shall be the campus they attend.

Beginning with the Class of 2024, for high school students on an intradistrict transfer, the campus of accountability shall be the campus where they receive instruction and class rank shall be the campus within the attendance boundary for which they reside.

**Beginning with
Students who
Entered Grade 9 in
the 2015–16 School
Year**

A 100-point scale (percent grade) shall be used. All grades shall be recorded numerically on a 100-point system and reflected as such on a transcript and a report card.

For students entering ninth grade in 2015, courses shall be weighted as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Weight</u>
AP level, Beyond AP	+10 points to the semester average
Pre-AP, Honors, Dual Credit, and Dual Enrollment	+ 5 points to the semester average
Regular/On-level courses	Not weighted

When required by colleges, the 100-point scale cumulative GPA shall be converted to a 4-point scale. The following conversion is used for the weighted 4-point scale:

Grade range	AP/Beyond AP	Pre-AP, Honors/Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment	On-level course (not weighted)
90–100+	5	4.5	4
80–89	4	3.5	3
70–79	3	2.5	2
Below 70	0	0	0

**Beginning with
Students who
Entered Grade 9 in
the 2019–20 School
Year**

For students entering ninth grade in 2019, courses shall be weighted as follows:

Category	Weight
AP level, Beyond AP, Dual Credit, IB, and Dual Enrollment	+10 points to the semester average
Pre-AP level, Pre-IB, Honors	+5 points to the semester average
Regular/On-level courses	Not weighted

When required by colleges or scholarships, the 100-point scale cumulative GPA shall be converted to a 4-point scale. The following conversion is used for the weighted 4-point scale:

Grade range	AP/Beyond AP/Dual Credit/IB/Dual Enrollment	Pre-AP/Pre-IB/Honors	On-level course (not weighted)
90–100+	5	4.5	4
80–89	4	3.5	3
70–79	3	2.5	2
Below 70	0	0	0

**Honor Graduates
Beginning with
Students who
Entered Grade 9 in
the 2015–16 School
Year**

Honor graduates shall meet all graduation requirements and shall complete one of the two highest programs as follows:

- Distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program; or
- The foundation program with at least one endorsement.

Students served under special education who meet all coursework and requirements of the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program or the foundation program with endorsement, per the student's individualized education program (IEP), shall be recognized as honor graduates.

The cumulative GPA is used in designating honor graduates and shall be calculated at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year.

The student with the highest class rank at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year who meets the eligibility criteria shall be named valedictorian; the eligible student with the second-highest rank in class shall be named salutatorian. In case of a tie in weighted GPAs after calculation to four decimal places, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title of honor graduates.

Students shall be recognized as honor graduates according to the following criteria:

Honor	Criterion
Valedictorian	Highest Cumulative GPA
Salutatorian	Second-Highest Cumulative GPA
Summa Cum Laude	Cumulative GPA = 97 or higher
Magna Cum Laude	Cumulative GPA = 96–93
Cum Laude	Cumulative GPA = 92–90

To be eligible for graduation with honors, students in the graduating classes of 2020–2023 shall:

- Present grades for all required courses prior to the established date for calculating weighted GPA, except second semester dual credit courses taken during his or her senior year, to determine honor graduate status.
- Not have withdrawn from a Program of Choice and enrolled at the student's zoned campus within the four consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation.

For students in the graduating classes of 2020–2023 to be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian, a student shall:

- Not have withdrawn from a campus where the student attended on a transfer and enrolled at the student’s zoned campus within the four consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation.
- Not have transferred from the student’s zoned campus to another campus within the four consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation.
- Meet additional eligibility requirements for valedictorian and salutatorian (top honors), requiring completion in no fewer than eight semesters, and continuous enrollment in the same high school in the District for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation.