

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

**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.

**Students Who
Entered High School
in August 2017 and
After**

The following provisions shall apply to students who entered high school in August 2017 and after.

Calculation

For every high school student, the District shall calculate a GPA based on the grades earned in every course taken as part of the student's high school graduation plan and as documented on the student's academic record. The GPA shall be used to determine an initial class rank.

For students who have a GPA of 4.0 or higher, their final class rank shall be determined by a class rank GPA, as described in this policy.

In the event that the class rank GPA produces a tie among students, a tie-breaker formula shall be used.

If a parent or guardian of a high school student submits a written request to the principal to have a student repeat any course in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year and for which the student has earned credit, the original assignment of grade and award of credit shall be retained on the student's transcript.

Exclusions

The calculation of initial class rank shall exclude credits earned outside the District on alternate grading systems that do not correlate to a 100-point scale, such as grades recorded only as pass/fail.

Repeated Courses

When a student repeats a course in which he or she received a failing grade, the original course attempts shall not be removed from the total number of courses when calculating the GPA. While in high school, if a student repeats a course for which credit has already been earned, the course shall not be taken for additional credit and shall not be awarded grade points. [See EI(REGULATION)] Repeating a course shall be considered an audit.

Weighted Grade
System

In accordance with this policy, the District shall categorize and weight courses as Modified, Regular, and Advanced, as defined below. Decisions on the level of courses taken by a student shall be made on a case-by-case basis and do not depend on any special programs in which a student is enrolled.

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Categories

Courses in each category shall be designated in the District's course guide.

"Modified course" shall be defined as a course with significantly reduced curriculum requirements or with a significantly reduced expectation of student mastery. With a Modified course, only a reduced portion of the designated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) may be addressed, or the student may be held accountable for only a reduced portion of the TEKS covered in the class.

Any course required for graduation in the core academics or fine arts areas at any campus could be classified as a modified course.

"Regular course" shall be defined as a course that addresses all the content required by the TEKS. Regular courses shall include most traditional academic courses and electives. For purposes of this policy, any credits earned by examination or through a correspondence course shall be classified as a regular course and shall receive regular grade points.

"Advanced course" shall be defined as a course with requirements and expectations that exceed the content required by the TEKS. Advanced courses include those designated as AP, IBDP, dual credit, honors, or any course leading to the potential award of college credit.

Weighted Grade Points

The District shall convert semester grades to grade points and shall calculate a weighted GPA in accordance with the following table:

Grade	Advanced	Regular	Modified
Less than 70 (F)	0 points	0 points	0 points
70-71 (C-)	1.5 points	1 points	0 points
72-74 (C)	2 points	1 points	0 points
75-76 (C)	2.5 points	1.5 points	1 point
77-79 (C+)	3 points	2 points	1 point
80-84 (B-)	3.5 points	2.5 points	1.5 points
85-90 (B+)	4 points	3 points	2 points
90-94 (A-)	4.5 points	3.5 points	2.5 points
95-100 (A+)	5 points	4 points	3 points

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Changes in
Enrollment

When a student transfers grades for properly documented courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District.

To the extent possible, courses completed at a previous high school shall be compared and matched to courses available at the student's new school. If an advanced course completed at a previous high school does not correspond to one offered at the new campus, then this course shall count for elective credit and shall be scored with regular grade points.

Grade Point
Average

The initial GPA shall be calculated for each student by dividing the total of all grade points earned by the total number of semester grades for which points were earned.

Seniors shall be ranked based on all prior semester grades through the fifth six-week grading period of the senior year. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose. The principal's designee shall determine the initial class ranks based on this GPA. Another employee shall be appointed by the principal to check these ranks to determine which students have initial GPAs of 4.0 or above.

Class Rank GPA

For each student whose GPA exceeds 4.0, his or her final class rank shall be determined by the class rank GPA, which shall be determined using the following method.

The class rank GPA shall be the average of all the grade points earned in the following courses:

- English I, English II, English III, and English IV.
- Geometry, Algebra II, and two additional mathematics courses. [For a list of courses that count for the additional mathematics credits, see EIC(REGULATION).]
- Biology, Chemistry, and two additional science courses. [For a list of courses that count for the additional science credits, see EIC(REGULATION).]
- World Geography or World History, a U.S. History course, Government, Economics/**Personal Financial Literacy (students entering high school in Fall 2026)** and one additional social studies course. [For a list of courses that count for the additional social studies credit, see EIC(REGULATION).]
- Two levels of the same language other than English.
- One additional advanced course (two semesters).

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Therefore, the class rank GPA is determined based on a total of 38 semester grades (eight from English, eight from mathematics, eight from science, eight from social studies, four from languages other than English (LOTE), and two from the same additional advanced course.

If a student with an initial GPA of 4.0 or above does not complete any of the 38 semester grades listed in the description of the class rank GPA above, then a score of zero points shall be used for these semesters in the calculation of the class rank GPA.

In order to achieve a correct rank for those students with a GPA of 4.0 or above, at the end of the fifth six-week grading period of the senior year, but no later than the first week of May, the final class rank GPA shall be applied to all eligible students. A student with an initial GPA below 4.0 shall not be included in the calculation of the class rank GPA formula and shall have his or her GPA recalculated at the end of the last semester of his or her senior year.

**Local Graduation
Honors**

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate class rank at the end of the fifth six-week grading period of the senior year. The average of the fourth and fifth six-week grades shall be used as the semester grade for this purpose.

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
Salutarian**

The valedictorian and salutarian shall be the eligible students with the highest and second-highest class rank GPA, respectively. To be eligible for such recognition, a student must have been enrolled in the same high school in the District at the end of his or her junior year and for his or her entire senior year immediately preceding graduation. A student graduating in less than eight semesters shall not be eligible for valedictorian or salutarian; however, if his or her class rank GPA qualifies, the student may be eligible to be recognized as an honor graduate.

The first Monday in May during the last grading period of each year shall be designated as the day for releasing information on the valedictorian and salutarian.

Breaking Ties

In the event that two or more students have an identical class rank GPA, the District shall apply the following "tie breaker" method when necessary to determine recognitions, such as valedictorian

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or salutatorian, top 10 graduates, or the students who may qualify for automatic admission into state universities.

Through the spring of 2024, to break a tie in class rank between students shall be in accordance with the following:

- Identify any common advanced courses taken by the students at the same campus. (Common courses are not limited to those included in the class rank GPA)
- Total the semester grades for the common advanced courses. To break any tie, the student with the highest total shall be ranked the highest, and the student with the lowest total shall be ranked the lowest.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2025, to break a tie in class rank between students shall be in accordance with the following:

- For each student, total the numeric scores for the 38 semester grades that were used in the calculation of class rank GPA. The student with the highest total shall be ranked the highest, and the student with the lowest total shall be ranked the lowest.

When used to break a tie to determine the valedictorian, the student with the largest total shall be the valedictorian. The student with the second-highest total shall be the salutatorian.

If two students tie with the highest total, then a second tie-breaking procedure will be used. Specifically, District officials will employ the remaining of the two procedures described above (totaling grades from common courses or totaling the 38 semester grades used in class rank GPA).

If the highest-ranking students have identical scores after a second tie-breaker, covaldictorians shall be named, but no salutatorian shall be recognized at graduation ceremonies. In this case, District officials will develop a tertiary method to determine a "highest-ranking graduate" for the purpose of reporting to TEA.

Top 10 Percent

The final class rank GPA shall be used to determine the top 10 percent of students in each year's graduating class.