

**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.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students in the incoming classes prior to 2017–18.

Grade Points

Grade points shall be assigned to courses in grades 9–12 in accordance with the following:

- Category I courses shall include all Advanced Placement (AP) courses and all courses that are considered postsecondary courses.
- Category II courses shall include all Pre-AP courses.
- Category III courses shall include all other courses, including any modified courses or locally developed courses substituted for graduation credit.

Grade points for courses taken in grades 9–12 shall be assigned according to the following chart:

Numerical Grade	Category I	Category II	Category III
97 and above	5.0	4.5	4.0
93–96	4.8	4.3	3.8
90–92	4.6	4.1	3.6
87–89	4.4	3.9	3.4
83–86	4.2	3.7	3.2
80–82	4.0	3.5	3.0
77–79	3.8	3.3	2.8
73–76	3.6	3.1	2.6
71–72	3.4	2.9	2.4
70	3.0	2.5	2.0
Below 69	0	0	0

Exclusions

Calculation of a student's grade point average (GPA) shall include grades earned in all courses except the following:

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EIC
(LOCAL)

1. Local credit courses and any course classified as a local credit course.
2. Credit by examination.
3. Any collegiate or high school equivalent elective course taken outside the District.
4. Correspondence and out-of-District electronic courses.
5. Summer school or summer programs taken outside the District, except for concurrent enrollment.
6. Courses taken prior to grade 9 for high school credit.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The first- and second-ranked students of the graduating class shall be known as the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively. The following selection guidelines shall apply:

1. The valedictorian shall be the graduate with the highest GPA who has met all related criteria.
2. The salutatorian shall be the graduate with the second-highest GPA who has met all related criteria.
3. A student shall complete the last four consecutive semesters in the District to compete for scholastic honors.

In the case of a tie for valedictorian or salutatorian, using GPA as the measure, the numerical grades earned in each eligible class shall be averaged, and the highest overall numeric grade average in eligible courses shall break the tie.

Highest-Ranking Graduate

The graduate with the highest cumulative GPA shall be designated as the highest-ranking graduate.

In the case of a tie, all those tying shall be recognized.

Honor Graduates

Students with a GPA of 3.7 or above shall be designated high honors graduates. Students with a 3.5 to 3.69 shall be designated as honor graduates. Students must be graduating under the Recommended Program or the Advanced/Distinguished Achievement Program in order to be eligible to be an honor graduate.

Definition of Courses

Honor Courses

Honors courses shall be all courses approved by the Board and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) that meet higher requirements than the normal curriculum. State-approved honors courses from other Texas schools shall be included in the GPA for all honors courses taken in the school year.

Regular Courses

Regular courses shall be all courses not defined as honors or local and that receive state credit.

Local Courses

Local courses shall be courses approved by the Board but that are not eligible for state credit. Currently approved courses offered by the District high school for local credit are:

1. TAKS remediation;
2. Teacher's aide/office-aide mentor;
3. All physical education and physical education substitute courses taken above the state-required physical education credits; and
4. Up to 2 credits of work study, upon school counselor recommendation and principal approval.

Early Graduation

In order to be included in the class rank of the current senior class, a student shall declare his or her intentions for early graduation within the first six-week grading period of the school year in which graduation is intended.

Students new to the District must declare their intentions for early graduation at the time of enrollment.

A student who completes the high school program requirements in fewer than four years shall be ranked in the class with which he or she actually graduates and shall be eligible for all honors including, but not limited to, valedictorian, salutatorian, highest-ranking graduate, and honor graduate.

In the event that an early graduate earns valedictorian honors, the early graduate shall be designated as valedictorian, and the four-year graduate who would have been valedictorian shall be designated as covaldictorian. In the event that an early graduate earns salutatorian honors, the early graduate shall be designated as salutatorian and the four-year graduate who would have been salutatorian shall be designated as cosalutatorian.

Note: The following provisions shall apply to students beginning with the incoming class of 2017–18.

Calculation

The District shall include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in high school credit courses taken in grades 9–12 only, unless excluded below.

The calculation shall include failing grades.

Exclusions

The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in summer school, credit by examination without prior instruction, private or commercially sponsored physical activity programs, correspondence courses, credit recovery courses, credits taken outside the

regular school day (not on the high school schedule), and courses taken in the summer, regardless of location.

Weighted Grade System

Categories

Advanced

The District shall categorize and weight eligible courses as Advanced, Honors, and Regular in accordance with provisions of this policy and as designated in appropriate District publications.

Eligible AP and dual credit courses shall be categorized and weighted as Advanced courses.

Honors

Eligible Pre-AP courses shall be categorized and weighted as Honors courses.

Regular

All other eligible courses shall be categorized and weighted as Regular courses.

Weighted Grade Point Total

The District shall convert semester grades earned in eligible courses to grade points in accordance with the following chart and shall calculate a weighted grade point total:

Grade	Advanced	Honors	Regular
100-97	18.0	13.5	9.0
96-93	16.0	12.0	8.0
92-90	14.0	10.5	7.0
89-87	12.0	9.0	6.0
86-83	10.0	7.5	5.0
82-80	8.0	6.0	4.0
79-77	6.0	4.5	3.0
76-73	4.0	3.0	2.0
72-70	2.0	1.5	1.0
69 or below	0	0	0

Transferred Grades

When a student transfers semester grades for courses that would be eligible under the Regular 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.

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.

Grades received in May for dual credit courses shall also be included in the calculation.

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 enrolled by the first day of the second week of school; and
3. Have completed the foundation program with at least one endorsement.

Early graduates shall not be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors.

Breaking Ties

In case of a tie in weighted grade point totals, the District shall apply the following methods, in this order, to determine recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian:

1. Calculate a weighted GPA for each student involved in the tie by dividing the total grade points earned by the number of credits earned, down to the thousandths place.
2. Calculate a projected final numerical grade average for each student involved in the tie by using the projected grades earned in the senior year after the fifth six-week grading period in eligible courses.
3. Calculate a junior year numerical grade average for each student involved in the tie by using only the grades earned in eligible courses during the junior year.

**Highest-Ranking
Graduate**

The local eligibility criteria for recognition as the valedictorian shall not affect recognition of the highest-ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the honor graduate certificate from the state of Texas.