

## CLASS RANKING AND WEIGHTED GRADES

The Board also acknowledges the necessity for a system of computing grade averages and class rank for high school students to inform students, parents/guardians and others of their relative placement among their peers, including designation of class Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

### Weighting of Grades

The Board is committed to encouraging all students to take honors and advanced level courses. However, the Board recognizes that some students may choose not to take such courses due to concerns that in choosing higher level courses, their class ranking may be impacted. The Board, therefore, authorizes a weighted system of class rank that rewards students who challenge themselves by taking honors and advanced level courses.

For class rank, each high school course is awarded a weight designed to reflect the level of rigor of the course. Regents, local and regular elective courses are weighted 1.0, while honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and college level courses are weighted 1.05. Students receive a weighted GPA, which reflects their achievement against the rigorous courses of study they took.

The following special provisions must be taken into consideration for the purpose of calculating a class rank:

1. High school courses taken from grades 9-12 will be used. The District's "Weighted Courses Guide" will be used for courses in Grades 9 through 12.
2. Classes with Carnegie Units taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be included for the purpose of calculating class rank.
3. Grades received by students for courses taken at other public schools or approved alternative programs shall be included in the students Grade Point Average (GPA).
4. A passing grade for a pass/fail course will reflect a credit on the transcript, but will not be used to determine grade point average (GPA).
5. If a student completes a course multiple times, the highest grade will be used in calculating the grade point average.
6. Letter grades received by students for courses taken at accredited private or parochial schools or through accredited home-schooled educational programs shall be converted into numerical grades using the District's grade conversion chart which is incorporated by reference in this Policy, and will be included for class rank purposes. The Conversion Chart is available upon request at the High School office.

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7. The building principal is responsible for assessing all grades issued by other education institutions to determine their validity for inclusion in determining grade point average. In making such determination, the building principal must consider the following:
  - Grades that are issued by non-accredited institutions must be converted to pass or fail.
  - Grades for courses that do not have Carnegie units will be converted to pass or fail.

Any appeal to the principal's assessment of a grade rejection or conversion must be made to the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education.

8. The Board forbids any deliberate manipulation of grades for the purpose of changing a student's position in the class rank over another student.

**Reporting of Class rank**

During the summer following the junior year, a preliminary class ranking is developed. Parents/Guardians and students wishing to know their rank may contact the school to receive it. The preliminary ranking may be helpful to students as they apply to institutions of higher learning during the first semester of their senior year. A final class ranking will be completed at the conclusion of the third marking period of the senior year.

Adopted: November 18, 2009

Revised: February 2, 2012

Revised: April 8, 2015

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