



NORTH EAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: January 13, 2020

Presenter: Donna Newman
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Executive Director,
Learning Support Services

Subject: EIC (LOCAL)
Second Reading

Related Page(s): Attached

ACTION ITEM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Class rank in NEISD is determined using a weighted system that supports academic achievement and rigor. All courses taken in grades 9–12 at the time of the calculation of class rank and that are required in order to graduate under the Foundation High School Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement shall be included in the calculation. In NEISD, class rank is based upon a weighted grade average (WGA).

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION

NEISD requests Board approval of revisions to EIC (LOCAL) to include changes in the rank multipliers applied to semester grades used in the calculation of rank and calculate rank only for students in the top ten percent of their graduating class.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Administrative staff recommends the Board of Trustees approve the second reading of the EIC (LOCAL) policy change.

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED

Approval/Disapproval

**Class Rank
Calculation**

Beginning with
Students Who
Entered Grade 9 in
the 2014–15 School
Year

Preliminary unofficial class standing reports shall be issued to students following the second and fourth semesters of high school. Official class standing shall be issued to students following the sixth and seventh semesters of high school. Class rank shall be determined using a weighted system that supports academic achievement and rigor. All courses taken in grades 9–12 at the time of the calculation of class rank and that are required in order to graduate under the Foundation High School Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement shall be included in the calculation. Class rank shall be based upon a weighted grade average (WGA).

This rank-in-class report designates students within a range of his or her high school class, as follows:

- Top five percent;
- Top ten percent;
- Top 15 percent;
- Top 20 percent;
- First quarter;
- Second quarter;
- Third quarter; and
- Fourth quarter.

These reports also designate the position of each student relative to other students in the graduating class. The position or rank is reported as "Student ____ is ranked number (____) out of (____) students in the graduating class." Example: "Student A is ranked number 5 out of 545 students in the graduating class."

Following semesters two, four, six, and seven, students shall be ranked within the class based on his or her WGA. All courses taken in grades 9–12 at the time of rank calculation and required in order to graduate under the Foundation program with Distinguished Level of Achievement shall be included in the class rank. Elective courses that produce the highest weighted grade shall be included in the calculation of class rank. [See EIF]

Rank points shall be determined by multiplying each semester grade of a ranked course by a rank factor, which recognizes differences in levels of difficulty between Advanced Placement (AP), Pre-AP, and Regular course work.

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Course Level	Rank Factor
AP and dual credit AP	1.29
Pre-AP, Honors, GT non-AP, and dual credit non-AP	1.15
Regular	1.00

Example:

Course: English 1 Pre-AP	
Semester 1: Grade 95 $95 \times 1.15 = 109.25$ rank points	Semester 2: Grade 98 $98 \times 1.15 = 112.7$ rank points

WGA: $109.25 + 112.7 = 221.95/2$ (semesters) = 110.975

The WGA determines the rank in class. The student earning the highest WGA shall be ranked number 1, and all other students shall take the following positions in increasing numeric order. A tie in class rank shall be broken using the most courses taken that are given a weight of 1.15 and/or 1.29.

All courses required to graduate under the Foundation program with Distinguished Level of Achievement shall be included except the following:

1. Courses taken in the second semester of the final year;
2. Courses taken during evening/night school;
3. Courses taken more than once in high school;
4. Courses in which credit is not available;
5. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis;
6. Courses taken for high school credit in middle school;
7. Credit by examination; or
8. Summer foreign study programs.

High school courses required to graduate under the Foundation program with Distinguished Level of Achievement taken in the summer after grade 8 shall be included in the calculation of class rank.

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Students Who Enter
Grade 9 in the
2015–16 School
Year

Grades earned from courses taken during evening/night school shall be included in the calculation of class rank.

Honor Graduates

Students achieving high standards of academic excellence shall be recognized at the graduation ceremony as honor graduates based on the following criteria:

1. Completion of the Recommended program or the Distinguished Achievement program for students who entered high school prior to the 2014–15 school year or completion of the Foundation program with Distinguished Level of Achievement for students who entered high school in the 2014–15 school year and thereafter.
2. Accumulation of a minimum of 52 semester classes of coursework by the time of graduation.
3. Overall WGA for all courses taken in high school greater than or equal to 90 at the end of the seventh semester.

Honor graduates meeting the criteria specified above shall be designated as follows:

Honor Graduate Designations	Cumulative Grade Average
Summa cum laude	100+
Magna cum laude	95–99
Cum laude	90–94

Top Ten Percent

Students who rank within the top ten percent at the end of the sixth or seventh semester may be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university. The Texas Administrative Code allows the University of Texas at Austin to adjust the percentage of students eligible for automatic admission to that institution. The District shall adhere to the rules set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for reporting the exact numerical standing of the top ten percent.

Early Graduates

A student who completes high school requirements in fewer than four years shall be ranked in the class with which he or she entered grade 9 and shall be eligible for honor graduate status. Three-year graduates shall not be eligible for the top-ranking graduate scholarship.

Transfer Grades

In the case of a transfer student, grades accepted shall be based on the intent of the sending school. If the transfer grade from an

accredited school has been designated as an honors course on the transcript, the grade shall be awarded honors rank points as long as the same course is offered at an honors level within the District. Numerical grades earned from an accredited school shall be accepted. Letter grades shall be recorded as follows:

Conversion Scale	
A	95
B	85
C	77
D	72

International Schools of the Americas (ISA)

Students Entering
Grade 9 Beginning
in the 2018–19
School Year

For those students entering grade 9 at the International School of the Americas (ISA) in the 2018–19 school year and beyond, no class rank shall be calculated or reported for any of its students on any transcript. A student that numerically qualifies for the top ten percent within the ISA shall be notified should the student wish to use this information for automatic admission to a Texas public university in accordance with current law. ISA students shall still receive all applicable multipliers for higher-level courses, such as Pre-AP or AP classes, taken by the student.

Class Rank

Beginning with
Students Who Enter
Grade 9 in the
2021–22 School
Year And Beyond

For those students entering grade 9 in the 2021-22 school year and beyond, no class rank shall be calculated or reported for any of its students on any transcript, except for the limited purpose of qualification for automatic admission to state public universities. Students shall receive all applicable multipliers for higher-level courses, such as Honors or AP classes, taken by the student. The multipliers are listed in the chart below.

Top Ten Percent

Students who rank within the top ten percent at the end of the sixth or seventh semester may be eligible for automatic admission to a Texas public college or university. The Texas Administrative Code allows the University of Texas at Austin to adjust the percentage of students eligible for automatic admission to that institution. The District shall adhere to the rules set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for reporting the exact numerical standing of the top ten percent.

The District shall include on the official transcript of each student in the top ten percent the student's specific numeric rank out of the specific total class size. For students not in the top ten percent, a class rank will not be included on the transcript.

Local Graduation Honors

For the purpose of determining honors to be conferred during graduation activities, the District shall calculate qualification for such honors in accordance with this policy and applicable administrative

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regulations by using grades available at the time of calculation at the end of the fall semester of the senior year.

Calculation

Official reports to students who are in the top ten percent shall be issued following the sixth and seventh semesters of high school. Such qualification shall be determined using a weighted system that supports academic achievement and rigor. All courses taken in grades 9–12 at the time of the calculation of qualification and that are required in order to graduate under the Foundation High School Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement shall be included in the calculation. Qualification shall be based upon a weighted grade average (WGA). Elective courses that produce the highest weighted grade shall be included in the calculation. [See EIF]

The calculation shall be determined by multiplying each semester grade of a course required for graduation by the following multiplier, which recognizes differences in levels of difficulty between Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, and Regular course work.

Course Level	Multiplier
AP and dual credit AP	1.15
Pre-AP, Honors, GT non-AP, and dual credit non-AP	1.08
Regular	1.00

All courses required to graduate under the Foundation program with Distinguished Level of Achievement shall be included in the calculation except the following:

1. Courses taken in the second semester of the final year;
2. Courses taken more than once in high school;
3. Courses in which credit is not available;
4. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis;
5. Courses taken for high school credit in middle school;
6. Credit by examination; or
7. Summer foreign study programs.

High school courses required to graduate under the Foundation program with Distinguished Level of Achievement taken in the summer after grade 8 shall be included in the calculation.

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Highest Ranking Graduate

The student with the highest weighted grade average shall be considered the highest ranking graduate for purposes of receiving the highest ranking graduate certificate from the state of Texas. A student graduating in less than eight semesters shall not be eligible to receive the highest ranking graduate certificate. A tie between students with the same WGA shall be broken using the most courses taken that are given a weight of 1.08 and/or 1.15.

Transfer Grades

In the case of a transfer student, grades accepted shall be based on the intent of the sending school. If the transfer grade from an accredited school has been designated as an honors course on the transcript, the grade shall be awarded the applicable honors multiplier as long as the same course is offered at an honors level within the District. Numerical grades earned from an accredited school shall be accepted.

Early Graduates

A student who completes high school requirements in fewer than four years shall have eligibility for automatic admission to a state public university and/or graduation honors calculated with the class with which he or she entered grade 9. Three-year graduates shall not be eligible to be the highest-ranking graduate.