

**I. CLASS RANKINGS**

**A. Calculating Grade Point Average (GPA)**

1. The following courses are included in calculating a student's GPA.

*All course work attempted in grades 9 through 12 while enrolled in the school system; courses taken in another accredited institution in grades 9-12 before the student enrolled in the school system; course work taken at an accredited institution that is needed for graduation and not available within the school system; courses taken at an institution of higher education through the Career and College Promise program, approved e-learning courses, etc.]*

2. The following courses are excluded in calculating a student's GPA.

*Courses transferred from home schools and from non-accredited schools, high school-level courses taken in middle school, and other course work that does not meet the criteria set forth above for inclusion in the GPA. Also excluded is college or online courses students elect to take on their own, outside the supervision of the school or pre-approval of the principal.*

3. Students will receive both an un-weighted GPA that reflects no additional weighting for advanced courses and a weighted GPA that reflects additional quality points for advanced coursework.
4. Credit recovery will not remove the original grade of the course being recovered. It will only supply the needed credit for the course, not change the original grade. Courses recovered via credit recovery after being failed on the previous attempt will not add a grade and count not into the students GPA. Students will receive a grade of "P" or "F" for credit recovery courses.
5. Credit by demonstrated mastery- Students will only receive a grade of "P" for passing. This will not calculate into GPAs.

**B. Calculating Rank**

High schools will rank all students within each graduating class. Class rank is based on cumulative weighted grade point average calculated in accordance with State Board of Education policy GCS-L-004, in which quality points are awarded to passing grades earned as follows:

Standard courses – 4.0 quality points

Honors courses – 4.5 quality points\*

AP, IB, and college courses, including dual enrollment and community college transfer courses from the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement – 5 quality points\*

\*Until the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year, honors courses will be awarded 5 quality points and AP and IB courses will be awarded 6 quality points.

The principal shall ensure that course descriptions identify all courses that carry weighted grades and the number of quality points associated with each course.

The principal shall compile unofficial class rankings at the end of each semester. Official class rank will be computed at the end of each academic year. Only final course grades will be used to compute class rank. The principal shall make a student's class rank available to the student, his or her parent/guardian, and other institutions, at the request of the student or his or her parent/guardian.

**C. Ties**

In the event that more than one student has the same grade point average, the following method will be used to determine class rank: If two or more students have identical GPA scores, they will all receive the same class rank. For example, if there is a clear first and second place score and the next three scores are identical, all three of those students will be reported as ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in their class rank. The next score will be reported as 6<sup>th</sup> place.

**D. Honor Graduates**

Students with outstanding academic achievement will be honored by the following:

Students with GPAs of 4.50 and above will be recognized as Summa Cum Laude.

Students with GPAs of 4.25-4.999 will be recognized as Magna Cum Laude.

Students with GPAs of 4.0-4.2.499 will be recognized as Cum Laude.

**II. NOTICE**

All high school student handbooks and/or course-books will include detailed information explaining the procedure for calculating class rank and information about courses with weighted grades. The information must be consistent with this procedure and State Board of Education policy GCS-L-004.

The principal shall make information available to all students and parents regarding weighted grades and their implication for grade point calculation and class rank when students are choosing their courses.

**III. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Nothing in this regulation is intended to provide a student with any legal entitlement to a particular class rank or title. The student grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, may be used to resolve disputes formally; however, parents, students, and principals are encouraged to reach a resolution informally on matters related to class rank.

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