

POLICIES PERTAINING TO INSTRUCTION**HIGHEST RANKING GRADUATE****Honor Graduate Certificate:**

The Texas Education Agency provides each high school in the district (local education agency) with one “Honor Graduate Certificate.” This certificate shall be presented to the highest-ranking graduate in the senior class. Under no circumstances should a student ranked lower than “highest” be awarded this honor. This certificate authorizes the president of any state supported college or university to provide a waiver for tuition as specified in Texas Education Code, Section 54.201.

Highest Ranking Graduate:

Highest ranking graduate honors shall be awarded to the student with the highest weighted GPA in the graduating class and shall be entitled to wear a stole with the words “Highest Ranking Graduate” inscribed. To calculate the top-ranking student, grades shall be carried out to the fifth decimal place. Each high school may award only one student except in the case of a tie as specified in the Attorney General’s opinion: “An institution of higher education is authorized to issue scholarships to more than one person in any case in which the relevant school district certifies a tie for the title of ‘highest ranking graduate,’ pursuant to Section 54.201 of the Texas Education Code.” Op. Atty. Gen 19892-No.MW-529.

Honor Students:

The top ten students in the graduating class will be designated as honor students and shall be entitled to wear the double gold cord identifying honor graduates at the graduation ceremonies. Certificates of merit also shall be issued to honor students.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for highest ranking graduate *or honor student*, a student who enrolls during his last year of residency (senior) shall:

1. Have been enrolled as a full-time student in the charter school no later than the end of the first nine-week grading period of the fall semester.
2. Have been enrolled as a full-time student and received grades in at least two full nine-week grading periods in his last year of residency.

EXCEPTION TO RESIDENCY RULE 1 AND 2 ABOVE: For charter campuses in their first year of operation only, in the event that the highest-ranking graduate (HRG) and/or top ten do not meet Residency Rules 1 and 2 above, Residency Rule 1 and 2 above will not apply. All other ranking rules are applicable.

However, if the HRG does meet Residency Rules 1 and 2 above this exception will not apply to the HRG nor the top ten.

3. Must have completed all credit and state assessment requirements for graduation by the day designated for submission of senior final grades.

Class Ranking:

Computation of grades for class ranking shall be done at the end of the third nine-week grading period. Following this date, there shall be no alteration of grades for any reason.

Grades for graduating seniors shall be considered as final averages for the purpose of this computation as of this date.

Computation of averages shall be carried out to the fourth decimal place; exception being only in the case of the highest-ranking senior. To calculate the highest-ranking senior, grades shall be carried out to the fifth decimal place.

Grades used for computation of all honors shall be from grades 9 – 12, including summer school grades from a TEA accredited summer school. This will include work done during the summer between completion of the eighth grade and formal entry into the ninth grade. Grades earned for high school credit at the eighth grade, dual credit courses, correspondence courses, distance learning courses, courses for which a pass/fail grade is assigned, credit by exam with or without prior instruction, duplicate courses and local credit courses shall not be counted in the computation of final averages for ranking.

Transferred Grades:

Transferred grades and credits already awarded by a sending district will be honored. Grades transferred as numerical averages will be accepted at face value. Transferred weighted courses, other than Pre-AP and AP, will only count as non-weighted courses. Grades transferred merely as passing or failing shall be accepted for credit, or none, as indicated in the transcript, but will not be calculated into class ranking, unless there is some accompanying explanatory information on the transcript.

Letter grades of transferred students from outside the district shall be assigned the following value, if a numerical value is not provided:

A+ = 98 B+ = 88 C+ = 78 D+ = 68

A = 95 B = 85 C = 75 D = 65

A- = 92 B- = 82 C- = 72 D- = 62

F = Numerical average if so transcribed, or if not, the number assigned shall be 59.

Weighted Grading System:

All courses presently offered by the district are classified as non-weighted. Pre-AP and AP courses, whether transferred or offered at a future date, will be weighted. In computing the weighted average, non-weighted course grades will stand as recorded. Weighted Pre-AP course grades will be multiplied by 1.05 and AP grades will be multiplied by 1.10. Weights will be used only for ranking and will not be reflected on the transcript.

Date Adopted: June 27, 2009

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