



CLASS RANKINGS

Policy Code: 3450

Class ranking is one method of measuring academic performance. The Board also recognizes other means of evaluating student achievement, including grade point average, courses completed, the rigor of the curriculum, results of tests and assessments and recommendation letters. The high school will compile class rankings periodically and make the information available to the student, his or her parents or guardians, and to other institutions at the request of the student or his or her parents or guardians.

The principal will be responsible for ensuring that class ranking is computed in a fair and consistent manner with adequate notice to students and parents. The Superintendent or principal will provide written procedures on how students with equal grades or grades that may be perceived as equal will be treated. Nothing in this policy provides any legal entitlement to a particular class rank or title. Although the student grievance procedure may be utilized to formally resolve disputes, the Board encourages parents, student(s) directly involved in the dispute, and the principal to informally reach a resolution on any matters related to class rank.

Each high school will designate a valedictorian and salutatorian to be recognized at graduation ceremonies. The senior attaining the highest grade point average will be designated valedictorian. The senior attaining the second highest grade point average will be designated salutatorian. In the event of a tie for valedictorian, there will be no salutatorian. In order to qualify for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, a student must (a) have been classified as a senior the entire school year, (b) have attended the school no less than the entire school year, and (c) have course credits equal to or exceeding his/her maximum potential minus two. (Maximum potential represents the total number of all courses a student can take during four years of high school. On the block schedule, for example, that equals 32 – four years times eight courses per year.)

High schools will recognize all seniors as High Honor graduates who have achieved an overall weighted cumulative grade point average of 4.2 or above for the time beginning with the first semester of the 9th grade and extending through completion of the 12th grade. Those with a 3.5 or higher GPA will be designated Honor graduates. This average will include all classes beginning with the first semester of 9th grade and extending through completion of 12th grade. All grade point averages will be rounded to the thousandth place.

The Board encourages the principal, with input from teachers, parents and students, to develop additional means of recognizing academic achievements.

Marshals in each high school are to be continued on the basis of individual school criteria.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -276, -288

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Parental Involvement (policy 1310)

Adopted: 04/12/99 **Revised:** 04/10/00, 08/14/00, 12.14.09