

Class rankings are one method of measuring academic performance. The Board also recognizes other means of evaluating student achievement, including grade point average, courses completed, rigorousness of curriculum, results of tests and assessments, and recommendation letters.

High school principals may compile class rankings periodically and make the information available to a student, his or her parents or guardians, and other institutions, at the request of the student or his or her parents or guardians. High school principals recognize honor students by designating honors, high honors and highest honors and the Board encourages principals, with input from teachers, parents and students, to develop alternative or additional means of recognizing academic achievement.

Principals shall ensure that class ranking is computed in a fair and consistent manner as provided in State Board of Education Policy GRAD-009.

WEIGHTED COURSES

The purpose of the weighted system is to recognize the level of difficulty of certain courses and to give additional points to the sum of quality points before a final ranking average is computed.

The weighted system is incorporated into our class ranking process only. This system should encourage and allow each student the opportunity to choose more academically challenging courses without adversely affecting class rank.

COURSES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WEIGHTS

For students enrolled prior to 2015-16, the following category of courses are eligible for weighted credit:

1. Honors sections of standard level academic courses. Such courses are assigned to category H provided that the standard level of the course is also offered at the high school 1.0 point.
2. Pre-calculus (advanced mathematics 2070), non-AP/IB calculus, mathematics courses beyond the level of calculus, and foreign language courses beyond the second year level. Such courses are considered to be inherently advanced and are assigned to category H 1.0 point.
3. College level courses identified in the Community College/University Comprehensive Articulation Agreement will be assigned to category H 1.0 point.
4. All AP/IB courses 2.0 points
H – Honors Level
AP – Advanced Placement
IB – International Baccalaureate

For students enrolled as a 9th grader in the fall of 2015-16 and beyond, the following category of courses are eligible for weighted credit:

1. Any course designated as Honors will receive an additional .5 credit point toward grade point average.
2. Pre-calculus, non-AP/IB calculus, mathematics courses beyond the level of calculus and world language and fine arts beyond the second year level will be assigned the category of Honors and receive an additional .5 quality point. Such courses are considered to be inherently advanced.
3. Any college level course – AP (Advanced Placement), IB, community college (authorized additional weight by the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement), or university course – will carry and additional 1.0 quality point.

Weighted credits are established by the North Carolina State Board of Education. This policy provides the same additional quality points to all community college/university coursework and AP/IB courses. For example, a student who earns an A in AP course would receive a weighted 5.0 grade for that particular course. A student who earns an A in an Honors course would receive a weighted 4.5 grade.

Refer to Policy 3101 for dual enrollment.

The superintendent and principal shall ensure that students and parents receive adequate notice as to how class rank is calculated and shall 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 a student with any legal entitlement to a particular class rank or title. Although the student grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, may be utilized to resolve disputes formally, the Board encourages parents, students and principals to reach a resolution informally on any matters related to class rank.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -276, -288; 116-11(10a); State Board of Education Policy GRAD-009

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Recognizing Excellence (policy 3440)

History of Policy 615

Adopted: August 6, 1992

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Updated: January 5, 2018*

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*Updated information approved by Associate Superintendent – did not effect content.