

Policy Code: 3450 Class Rankings

Class ranking is one method of measuring student academic performance. The Board also recognizes other means of evaluating student achievement, including grade point averages, courses completed, the rigor of the curriculum, results of tests and assessments, and recommendation letters.

High schools shall provide for the compilation of class rankings to be listed on student transcripts and may make class rank information available periodically to the student, his or her parent or guardian, and to other institutions, at the request of the student or his or her parent or guardian. Beginning with the Class of 2008, class ranking will be determined by the grade point average (GPA) computation for courses taken at high schools in the district or at other accredited educational institutions within the United States. All grades for transfer courses taken at accredited institutions will be included in a student's class rank and GPA, including the state-weighted grades for honors and advanced placement (AP) courses. Home schools are not considered accredited institutions; therefore, grades for courses taken by students at home will be designated as either pass or fail (P or F). Grades from online courses approved by the district will count for both rank and GPA.

Grade average and class rank shall be calculated by a standard method devised by the institutions of higher education and generated by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. 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 resolve disputes formally, the Board encourages parents, students, and the principal to informally resolve matters related to class rank.

Senior Honors

The Valedictorian(s) must be in residence at a high school in the district for one year prior to graduation and must have earned straight As for all credit grades 9-12. Students who receive credit for one or more courses by the state-approved Credit by Demonstrated Mastery process or by earning a pass in a course taken pass/fail will be eligible for valedictorian status if all other grades are As. The Board encourages the principal, with input from teachers, parents, and students, to develop alternatives or additional means for recognizing academic achievements.

While the board encourages broad means of recognizing student achievement, high school principals shall not designate a valedictorian or salutatorian beyond the graduating class of 2023.

Additionally, beginning in 2022-2023, graduating seniors earning at least a semester one cumulative weighted GPA of 3.70 shall be recognized using the Latin Honor System (cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude). High school principals shall designate the following senior honors:

1. Students with a 3.70 - 3.79 weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of cum laude.
2. Students with a 3.80 - 3.89 weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of magna cum laude.
3. Students with a 3.90 and above weighted grade point average shall receive the distinction of summa cum laude.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-47](#), [-81](#), [-276](#), [-288](#); [116-11](#) (10a); State Board of Education Policy [GRAD-004](#)

Cross References: Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (Policy 3000), Recognizing 3450

Excellence (Policy 3440), Parental Involvement (Policy 1310/4002), Grievance Procedure for Students and Parents (Policy 1740/4010)

Adopted:

Revised: December 2005, January 15, 2015, September 3, 2015, May 1, 2017, April 12, 2023

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools
