

**SUBJECT: SECONDARY STUDENTS GRADING/CLASS RANK**

**Purpose**

The Board of Education is committed to encouraging high school students to take honors and ACE/AP courses. The Board recognizes that a student may choose not to take these types of courses due to that student's concern that in so doing, the student's class ranking will be adversely impacted. To promote enrollment in and to give recognition to the academic quality of advanced courses, the Board adopts the following system to be used in determining the class rank of each high school student. The use of this system will not affect any student's grade average.

**The Rank-Point System**

For purposes of calculating class rank, the District shall establish a "rank-point system." This system applies to every course a student takes for secondary credit.

Step 1: Each student will earn "rank-points" for each course taken (equal to the percentage grade earned in that course times the credit value of that course). *[For example, a student who earns an 85 in a one-credit course will earn 85 rank-points.]*

Step 2: Each student will have calculated a "cumulative rank-point total" for all courses taken. This is simply the sum of all rank-points earned. *[For example, without weighted points, a student who takes five classes may achieve grades of 83, 76, 92, 87, and 81. This student would have a cumulative rank-point total of 419.]*

Step 3: A student's class rank shall be determined by comparing that student's cumulative rank-point total with the cumulative rank-point totals of all other students in the same high-school-entry cohort.

**Weighting and Other Adjustments**

Weighting

In order to provide an incentive for students to take more challenging courses, the rank-points earned from all courses will be weighted as follows:

ACE/AP Courses: 1.15

Honors Courses: 1.10

**SUBJECT: SECONDARY STUDENTS GRADING/CLASS RANK (Cont'd)**

All other courses including, but not limited to, Regents courses, regular courses, and college courses taken outside the school district: 1.00

*[For example, if a student earns a 90 in a Regents course, that student will earn rank-points according to the following formula:  $90 \times 1.00 = 90$ . If a student earns a 90 in an Honors Course, the rank-points will be  $90 \times 1.10 = 99$ . If a student earns a 90 in an ACE/AP Course, the rank-points will be  $90 \times 1.15 = 103.5$ .]*

Courses with Longer Classtime Requirements

Rank-points earned in courses with longer classtime requirements shall be adjusted to reflect the extra classtime. Specifically, the number of rank-points earned from a lab course shall be adjusted by multiplying the rank-points by a conversion factor of 1.50. The Superintendent is directed and authorized to promulgate regulations as needed from time to time to establish proportionate adjustments for similar situations.

**Phase-In**

The Board acknowledges that, prior to the implementation of this policy, students will have made course selection choices under the prior policy that might have been different had this policy been in effect. Therefore, the following phase-in adjustments shall be applied to the class rank calculation.

This policy will apply without modification for all students graduating in or after June 2012.

For earlier graduation dates, the rank-point system shall be applied to only a portion of a student's secondary credits, as defined by grade level. A traditional average shall be calculated for secondary credits earned before those grade levels.

For students graduating in 2011, the rank-point system shall be applied only to those courses taken in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades (i.e., not 8th grade or earlier).

For students graduating in 2010, the rank-point system shall be applied only to those courses taken in 10th, 11th, and 12th grades (i.e., not 9th grade or earlier).

In order to combine the rank-point system and traditional average system to form a final ranking reflective of a student's entire secondary career, the traditional average produced

**SUBJECT: SECONDARY STUDENTS GRADING/CLASS RANK**

from the applicable years shall be converted to a rank-point total by applying the following conversion factors:

For secondary work completed in 8th grade, 2.0.

For secondary work completed in 9th grade, 6.5.

For purposes of these calculations, courses taken in any summer period shall be considered part of the immediately following academic year. *[For example, a course taken in summer 2008 would be counted as part of the courses taken in the 2008-2009 school year.]*

**Designation of Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

The Valedictorians and Salutatorians shall be those students with the highest and second-highest rank-points totals, respectively, as calculated using the grades earned through the first marking period in the second semester of the graduation year. Once this designation is made, no further changes will be made to the rankings for the cohort.

In order for a student to be considered for Valedictorian or Salutatorian, he/she must have been enrolled for his/her junior and senior years in the Elmira City School District high school conferring the academic titles.

**Reporting of Class Rank**

Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, each secondary student's class ranking shall be reported only by decile and not by position, excepting only the final declaration of Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The District may produce other percentile reports as necessary to permit student applications for scholarship or other program opportunities (e.g., Mark Twain Scholars). Reports to colleges or other post-secondary programs that are produced in any school year shall include the courses taken through the immediately-preceding summer, but shall not include extrapolations of grades from partially-completed courses, and shall have attached an explanation of the rank-point system.

Adopted: 2/21/07

Revised: 2/4/09