

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, the rigor of the curriculum, results of tests and assessments, and recommendation letters.

High school principals shall provide for the compilation of class rankings to be listed on student transcripts and may make class rank information available periodically to a student and his or her parents or guardians, and to other institutions, at the request of the student or the student's parents or guardians. The board encourages principals, with input from teachers, parents and students, to develop alternative or additional means for recognizing academic achievement. High school principals may designate a valedictorian and salutatorian. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, all Cumberland County high schools will utilize a Latin Honors system to recognize the distinguished academic achievement of its graduates. High schools shall use the following criteria to designate honors:

- Summa Cum Laude (With Highest Honor)- 4.250 +
- Magna Cum Laude (With Great Honor)- 4.00 to 4.249
- Cum Laude (With Praise)- 3.75 to 3.999

The superintendent shall develop procedures to ensure that class ranking is computed in a fair and consistent manner with adequate notice to students and parents. School administrators shall comply with the requirements of the State Board in calculating weighted grade point averages and class rank. Course grades earned in the North Carolina Virtual Public School will be included with those of the school serving the attendance area in which the student resides. The superintendent or principal 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 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, students and principals to informally reach a resolution on any matters related to class rank.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -81, -276, -288; State Board of Education Policy GCS-L-004

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Recognizing Excellence (policy 3440)

Replaces: IHA (in part) (revised September 8, 2009)

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