

Policy Code: 3450 Class Rankings

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 shall provide for the compilation of class rankings to be listed on student transcripts and may make class rank information available periodically to students and their parents or guardians, and to other institutions at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian. While high school principals may designate a valedictorian and salutatorian, the board encourages principals, with input from teachers, parents and students, to develop alternative or additional means of recognizing academic achievement.~~

The primary purpose of grading and ranking students is to keep parents and students fully informed of each student's progress and to provide a continuous and accurate record of each student's achievement for use in instruction. 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 students and their parents or guardians and to other institutions at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian. While high school principals may designate a valedictorian and salutatorian, 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 with adequate notice to students and parents. 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 provided 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.

The valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined at the end of the second semester of the senior year. No student with a final grade of incomplete will be eligible for recognition as either Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Washington County Public Schools allow the use of the Latin Honors system to recognize academic achievement. Washington County Public Schools principals may recognize class rankings as one method of measuring academic performance. In accordance with General Statute 116-11 (10a), high school principals shall provide a compilation of class rankings to be listed on student transcripts. Principals will make class rank information available periodically to to students and their parents or guardians, and to other institutions at the request of the student or the student's parent or guardian.

Students earning a GPA between 3.75 – 3.999 will receive cum laude distinction.

Students earning a GPA between a GPA between 4.000 - 4.249 will receive magna cum laude distinction.

Students earning a GPA of 4.250 or greater will receive summa cum laude distinction.

Legal Reference(s): G.S. 115C-36 and G.S. 116-11 (10a)

The high school principal will select Junior marshalls based on the students' weighted GPA. The principal will determine the number of marshalls needed. Marshalls will be named based on the final GPA at the end of their Fall semester of their Junior year.

Class rankings are required only in the high schools from grades nine through twelve. Weighted scale will be used for class ranking and will be calculated in accordance with State Board of Education requirements.

Any two (2) or more students whose computed grade point averages are identical shall be given the same rank. The rank of the student who immediately follows a tied position will be determined by the number of students preceding him/her and not by the rank of the person preceding him/her.

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

Adopted: July 14, 1998

Revised: August 12, 2014; April 12, 2016; June 13, 2017 and February 13, 2018 (Legal references only)

Washington County Schools