



# EIC (LOCAL)

## CLASS RANKING

APPROVED: March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

# EIC Student Fundraising Policy Cross Reference Sheet

This handbook is an administrative procedure of the District and subject to policies adopted by the Board of Trustees. In case of conflict between administrative procedures and Board policy, policy shall prevail.

Date of Superintendent Approval: \_\_\_\_\_

3-4-2020

Version Number: (i.e. "2018.1") 2020

The contents of this handbook relate to the following Board policies:

Policy	Title	Page(s)
EIC (Local)	Definitions	4
EIC (Local)	Class Rank System	4
EIC (Local)	Class Rank Calculation	5
EIC (Local)	Top Ten Percent Rule	5
FMH (Local)	Graduation Speakers	6
EIC (Local)	Program of Choice Students Beginning 20-21	6
EIC (Local)	Homeless and Transfer Students	7
EIC (Local)	Grade Weighting Beginning with Students Who Enter During the 2019-20 School Year	7
EIC (Local)	Honor Graduates Beginning with Students Who Enter During the 2015-16 School Year	8

# INTRODUCTION

## **Philosophy**

Fort Bend ISD values the development of all students' social and emotional learning and well-being. In addition, Fort Bend ISD values supporting the attainment of all seven Profile of a Graduate attributes. The Board also desires to honor and recognize graduates who have attained high academic excellence.

# DEFINITIONS

The **Class of 2024 and beyond** are represented by any student entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2020-2021 school year and after.

A **campus of residence** is the school within the attendance boundary zone in which the student lives during the school week.

A **campus of attendance** is the school in which the student attends class during the school day.

**Grade Point Average (GPA)** is calculated by multiplying each semester grade achieved, excluding GPA-exempt courses, by the number of credits the course was worth, calculating the sum of these valued with any additional weights, and dividing by the total number of credits that were attempted.

A student's **class rank** is a measure of how a student's GPA compares to that of other students in the same graduating class.

**GPA-exempt courses** shall not be included when calculating a student's GPA or class rank. GPA-exempt courses are specified third- and fourth-year elective courses that encourage special skills and interests. GPA-exempt courses as defined by Fort Bend ISD are located in the current Fort Bend ISD course guide.

A **one-time option** is a discretionary transfer for students that have attended a high school for at least two consecutive years or for a student's last year of elementary, middle, or high school.

**Inter-District Transfers** are defined as students that transfer from another district to Fort Bend ISD.

**Intra-District Transfers** are defined as students that transfer from a Fort Bend ISD campus of residence to another Fort Bend ISD campus. This includes employee and special circumstances transfers.

A **Program of Choice** is defined as a program with specialized offerings for which students must apply and be accepted.

## CLASS RANK SYSTEM

Fort Bend ISD records a weighted 100-point scale, weighted 4.0 scale, and the unweighted 4.0 *GPA* on student transcripts. All courses recorded on the academic achievement record (high school transcript), with the exception of courses taken on a *GPA-exempt* basis, shall count toward *GPA* and class rank using the grades received. These courses shall be weighted by category when calculating *GPA*. Any courses taken in fulfillment of an endorsement are not excluded from *GPA*.

Local graduate honors, such as Magna Cum Laude, Summa Cum Laude, and Cum Laude, do not supersede class rank for the purposes of the Top 10% state law.

## CLASS RANK CALCULATION

### **Graduating Class of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023**

The graduating classes of 2020-2023 shall have class ranks communicated by Fort Bend ISD in the following manner: October of the 10<sup>th</sup>-grade year, September of 11<sup>th</sup> grade year, June following the 11<sup>th</sup>-grade year, September of the 12<sup>th</sup>-grade year, mid-term of the 12<sup>th</sup>-grade year, and at the conclusion of high school. Graduating seniors shall have honor graduate recognition calculated at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine-week grading period for graduation ceremony purposes.

### **Graduating Class of 2024 and Beyond**

Starting with the *Class of 2024*, class rank shall only be calculated for the Top 10% of each class for purposes of applications to institutions of higher education, as required by state law. Fort Bend ISD shall provide to each student in the Top 10% notice of their class rank with a defined numerical rank out of the total specified class size, subject to the day the rank is run. These notices shall be provided, January of 11<sup>th</sup>-grade year, June following the 11<sup>th</sup>-grade year, September of the 12<sup>th</sup>-grade year, January of the 12<sup>th</sup>-grade year. Graduating seniors shall have honor graduate recognition calculated at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine-week grading period for graduation ceremony purposes.

## TOP TEN PERCENT RULE

Juniors and seniors with a class rank in the top ten percent will be notified of their qualification for automatic admissions as required by law no later than the 14<sup>th</sup> school day following the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

### **TRANSFER GRADES**

When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign a weight to those grades based on the categories and grade weight system used by the District, if the same course is offered to the same class of students in the District.

### **EARLY GRADUATION**

Early graduates shall be ranked with the class with which they graduate. Calculations for *GPA* and class rank for three-year graduates shall be based upon the grade point scale and procedures for determining rank for the senior class with which they graduate. Students entering a *Program of Choice* in 9<sup>th</sup> grade during the 2020-21 school year shall be held to the same class ranking standards as the Graduating Class of 2024 and beyond, regardless of early graduate year.



# GRADUATION SPEAKERS

Graduation speakers shall be based on neutral criteria designed to select the students who best exhibit the attributes of the Profile of a Graduate. Please see Policy FMH (LOCAL) for more information.

## BEGINNING WITH STUDENTS WHO ENTER A PROGRAM OF CHOICE IN 2020-21

A *Program of Choice* is defined as a program with specialized offerings for which students must apply and be accepted. The campus of residence for students in a *Program of Choice* shall be designated as the campus of accountability.

Specifically, students in a *Program of Choice* would have all accountability reported to their *campus of residence*. Examples of accountability include state assessment, class rank, discipline, attendance, and national assessments. TEA Guidelines Apply.

### **Middle School Gifted and Talented Academy**

*Program of Choice* reporting would begin with students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the Gifted and Talented (GT) Academy during the 2020-2021 school year and beyond. This would result in all GT Academy student state assessment data reporting to the *campus of residence* by 2022-2023. (Policy ED [LOCAL])

### **Residence Circumstances**

If the student were to move residences during the school year and prior to the snapshot date, class rank and campus accountability would report to the new campus of residence. If the student were to move residences during the school year and after the snapshot date, the class rank would report to the new campus of residence. A student must reside within the same attendance boundary for their final four semesters to qualify as valedictorian or salutatorian.

### **Student Organizations/Clubs and UIL Participation**

Each student club, organization, or UIL activity has different criteria for participation. For UIL athletics and fine arts, enrollment in the on-campus course is required. For students to participate in UIL activities, student organizations, and student clubs, students must be enrolled in courses made available. Students enrolled in a *Program of Choice* shall participate in UIL activities, student organizations, and clubs at the *Program of Choice* campus. (See FM [LOCAL]).

UIL participation includes academic, athletic, and fine arts participation and competition. Students enrolled in a *Program of Choice* shall take part in UIL participation and competition at the *Program of Choice* campus since this is the daily *campus of attendance*. Students enrolled in a *Program of Choice* different from their campus of residence will be ineligible from UIL varsity athletics for one calendar year.

## **Graduation**

Students in a *Program of Choice* or on an *Intra-District Transfer* shall have a transcript that reflects or denotes the *campus of residence*. The transcript shall also reflect the program of choice enrollment. The student shall participate in commencement at the *Program of Choice* campus ceremony.

## **STUDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS OR ON A TRANSFER**

Beginning with the class of 2024, high school students granted a *one-time option* transfer would have accountability and *class rank* reported to the *campus of residence*. Students on an *intra-district transfer* will have the accountability of class rank and state assessments reported to the *campus of residence*. Students on an *inter-district transfer* will have all student data reported to the *campus of attendance*.

Students participating in a *Program of Choice* who become homeless during high school shall have the accountability of *class rank* and state assessments stay with the Fort Bend ISD *campus of residence* at the time of homeless designation. Students that lose homeless status return to the normal *Program of Choice* accountability structure.

## **STUDENTS WHO ARE REDIRECTED TO A SPECIFIC CAMPUS DUE TO CAP AND OVERFLOW FROM AN OVER-UTILIZED CAMPUS**

All students who live within a FBISD high school attendance boundary will be ranked among their cohort at their zoned campus but will participate in UIL and other activities at the campus students are redirected, due to cap and overflow.

## **GRADE WEIGHTING BEGINNING WITH STUDENTS WHO ENTERED GRADE 9 in the 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR**

Any student entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2019-20 shall have all courses weighted as follows:

Grade range	AP/Beyond AP/Dual Credit/IB/Dual Enrollment	Pre-AP/Pre-IB/Honors	On-level course (not weighted)
90–100+	5	4.5	4
80–89	4	3.5	3
70–79	3	2.5	2
Below 70	0	0	0

When a college or scholarship application requires the 100-point scale, the cumulative *GPA* shall be converted to a 4-point scale. The following is the conversion used for the weighted 4-point scale:

Category	Weight
AP Level, Beyond AP, Dual Credit, IB, and Dual Enrollment	+10 points to the semester
Pre-AP level, Pre-IB, Honors	+5 points to the semester
Regular/On-level courses	Not weighted

## HONOR GRADUATES BEGINNING WITH STUDENTS WHO ENTERED GRADE 9 IN THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

Any student considered to be an honor graduate shall meet all graduation requirements and shall complete either the distinguished level of achievement under the foundation program or the foundation program with at least one endorsement.

Cumulative *GPA* is used in designating honor graduates and shall be calculated at the end of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year. The eligible student with the highest-*class rank* shall be named valedictorian; the eligible student with the second-highest rank in class shall be named salutatorian. In the instance of a Weighted *GPA* tie after calculation to four decimal places, the District shall recognize all students involved in the tie as sharing the honor and title of honor graduates.

Honor	Criterion
Valedictorian	Highest Cumulative <i>GPA</i>



Salutatorian	Second-Highest Cumulative <i>GPA</i>
Summa Cum Laude	Cumulative <i>GPA</i> = 97 or higher
Magna Cum Laude	Cumulative <i>GPA</i> = 96-93
Cum Laude	Cumulative <i>GPA</i> = 92-90

For students in the graduating class of 2020-2023, students are eligible to be named valedictorian or salutatorian if the following are true.

- The student did not withdraw from a campus where the student attended on a transfer and enroll at the student's campus of primary residence within the four consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation.
- The student did not transfer from the campus of primary residence to another campus within the four consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation.
- The student met additional requirements for valedictorian and salutatorian by completing no fewer than eight semesters. The student must also be continuously enrolled in the same Fort Bend ISD high school for the four semesters immediately preceding graduation.