

## **Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Highest Ranking Graduate, Honor Graduate**

Students desiring to reach any of the levels named should take weighted courses in the earliest year possible. Course planning should begin as the student enters the eighth grade. Students and parents are encouraged to consult with school counselors and to attend any orientation meetings provided that address this topic.

The student with the highest grade point average in each high school shall be named valedictorian. The student with the second highest grade point average shall be named salutatorian. The grade point average for these two shall not be limited to the hundredth place. If there is a two-way tie, both valedictorians will receive the same honor and both will be named the Highest Ranking Graduate (HRG).

### **TEA policy with regard to HRG is as follows:**

“In conjunction with Texas Education Code (TEC), §54.301, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides an opportunity for each public and accredited non-public high school in Texas to identify a student to award a "Highest Ranking Graduate" certificate and tuition waiver document. These documents shall be presented to the highest ranking graduate (HRG) in the senior class. Under no circumstances may a student ranked lower than "highest" be awarded this honor. The HRG should present the tuition waiver document to the college or university upon admission and retain the certificate for personal use. The HRG tuition waiver document authorizes the president of any state-supported college or university to provide a waiver for tuition in accordance with TEC §54.301.”

If there is a tie among three or more students named valedictorian, the campus will adhere to the following criteria to determine the HRGs:

1. A review of each valedictorian's academic transcript will take place.
2. Based on this transcript analysis, the two valedictorians with the highest numerical raw score will be named the HRGs and their names will be submitted to TEA. (There may still be several students named and recognized as valedictorians at the commencement exercises, but only the two identified as HRGs will receive a certificate and tuition waiver, per TEA policy.)
3. In the event the HRG enrolls in a non-Texas public institution of higher education, the individual will forfeit the tuition waiver unless he/she chooses to transfer and attend a Texas public college/university after their first semester.
4. In accordance with TEA, the certificate is awarded only to the two valedictorians named HRGs; even if it is forfeited by one of them, no other valedictorians beyond the two named as HRG will be eligible to receive the tuition waiver certificate.

**Other policies for valedictorian and salutatorian graduates include:**

1. All semester courses in which a numerical grade is given, including Algebra I Pre-AP in grade 8 and World Languages in grades 7 and 8, are used in averaging.
2. A course may be taken a second time only if the first grade is below a 90. If the same course is taken a second time, both grades shall show on the transcript and both grades shall be counted toward the grade point ratio and the rank in class.
3. Certain courses are specified by the district to receive additional grade points.
4. To be valedictorian or salutatorian, the student shall have attended high school for eight consecutive semesters and shall have attended a district high school the two years prior to graduation. Early graduates cannot be valedictorian or salutatorian.
5. The provisions governing the selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian shall be the same as those used in the ranking of senior students; determined after the end of the 5th six weeks of the senior year.
6. Must have completed no later than March 1 any credits earned from a source other than the District.
7. Must have completed the Foundation Program plus Endorsement for graduation.

An **honor graduate** shall have a grade point average of at least 3.50 and the average shall not be rounded up. A **high honor graduate** shall have a grade point average of at least 4.00 and the average shall not be rounded up.