

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

The Board values excellence and wishes to inculcate in students the desire to do their best in all things. It shall be the policy of this Board, therefore to recognize outstanding academic accomplishment.

The Board authorizes the recognition of the following achievements in each school of the district at the end of each school year: the graduate with the highest academic average, based upon a 4.0 grading scale, valedictorian; and the graduate with the second highest academic average, based upon a 4.0 grading scale, salutatorian. Under direction of the school principal and with appropriate input from parents and staff, the school may decide not to recognize a valedictorian or salutatorian but, instead, establish other recognition for honored graduates.

For the purpose of designating valedictorian and salutatorian, grade point average should be based upon the following:

- “A” = 4 points
- “B” = 3 points
- “C” = 2 points
- “D” = 1 point
- “F” = 0 points

For establishing grade point average for scholarship applications, college admissions, and other purposes, a five point scale will be used on those courses approved by the University of California for honors and advanced placement credit:

- “A” = 5 points
- “B” = 4 points
- “C” = 3 points
- “D” = 1 point
- “F” = 0 points

“Plus” (+) and “minus” (-) grades do not affect the selection of valedictorian/salutatorian on the four-point scale, nor do they affect grade point averages derived on the five-point scale.

Adopted: November 22, 1977
Revised: January 28, 1998
Revised: January 10, 2007

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The following standards and procedures will be observed districtwide in the selection of valedictorian and salutatorian for each graduating class:

1. Any member of the graduating class who has met the requirements for graduation is eligible for consideration, including mid-year graduates.
2. A candidate must have demonstrated satisfactory school citizenship.
3. If a candidate is new to the district, that student must have been enrolled at the beginning (first day) of the second quarter prior to graduation exercises.
4. All courses that the student has taken for credit toward graduation shall be used in computation of grade point average.
5. Grade point average is computed by dividing the total number of points received from grades by the total number of courses taken.
6. Computations shall be based upon a student's grades as of the first of June, prior to the graduation date of the class.
7. The highest ranking student, based upon a 4.0 grading scale, is to be designated as the valedictorian and the second highest ranking student, based upon a 4.0 grading scale, the salutatorian. In those instances where two or more students have an identical grade point average and that grade point average is the highest in their class, they shall be designated co-valedictorians; no salutatorian shall be designated for that class.

In those instances where there is only one student to be designated as the valedictorian, but there are two or more students with an identical grade point average and that grade point average is the second highest in their class, they shall be designated as co-salutatorians for that class.

8. It shall be left to the discretion of the school principal to determine procedures to designate which graduates will deliver graduation speeches.
9. A committee established by the site principal will determine eligibility of candidates for valedictorian and salutatorian. A recommendation for presentation to the Board of Trustees will be made to the Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services five days prior to the Board of Trustees recognition meeting.

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The honors and advanced placement courses are open to all students, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, or handicapping condition.

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