

New Class Rank and GPA Scale FAQ (For the Class of 2026 and beyond)

Why is FISD pursuing these changes to the Class Rank and GPA System?

Sparked by the FISD Strategic Plan, the work to redefine how we measure student success began in the Spring of 2019. Class Rank was removed for all students outside the top ten percent. The idea behind this work was to create opportunities for students that were about choice and individualized pathways based on learning, interests, and growth - not focused on comparison and rank. The current changes in the FISD GPA Policy continue to be in alignment with our belief that success looks different for everyone, and our commitment to creating an environment where learners can pursue their individual passions. This in no way changes our course offerings or the level of rigor in our courses. Instead, it is a step to ensuring that learners who enroll in courses are there for the love of the content and learning and not for GPA points.

What is class rank?

Class rank is a student's standing among others of the same year based on a numeric grade point average (GPA). Class rank places all students in numerical order based solely on how their GPAs compare to one another.

What is Friendswood ISD's policy on class rank?

Friendswood ISD's EIC (Local) states: Class rank shall not be reported except for students in the Top 10% or a given class as required by state law.

What is the difference between Rank GPA and Cumulative GPA?

Rank GPA is calculated for the sole purpose of comparing one student to another - to establish rank of the top 10% of the students in the class. Rank GPA will only be published directly to the individual student. It will not be published to any university or scholarship opportunity.

Cumulative GPA is a complete picture of the whole student. This GPA includes all courses taken by each student once they leave 8th grade. It will reflect all levels of rigor and all experiences of each student. The Cumulative GPA is the GPA that will be published on the transcript and shared with universities and scholarship opportunities.

Will the Rank GPA be published on the transcript?

No, the Rank GPA will not be published on the transcript. Each student in the top 10% will receive a Certification of Top 10% letter including the number rank and the percentile - no GPA will be included.

Which courses will be used in the calculation of Rank GPA?

Not all classes will be used in the calculation of Rank GPA. As a basic guideline, all courses in the CORE and the World Languages are used to calculate Rank GPA. To confirm if a particular course is used in the calculation of Rank GPA please refer to the "R" symbol next to the title of the course in the Academic Planning Guide.

Will grades earned in summer school courses and correspondence courses be included in the calculation of RANK GPA?

All courses in Math, English, Social Studies, Science, and World Language - regardless of the method earned - will be calculated in Rank GPA and Cumulative GPA. Methods of earning credit could include: summer school, correspondence courses, dual credit courses, CBE's, etc.

Will high school credit courses taken at the Junior High be calculated into Rank GPA or Cumulative GPA?

No, high school credit courses earned at the Junior High will not be calculated into Rank GPA or Cumulative GPA. Any high school credit completed after completion of 8th grade will be included in the calculation of Rank GPA and Cumulative GPA.

Do all students receive a cumulative GPA?

Yes - all students receive a cumulative GPA based on ALL credits earned after completion of 8th grade. This Cumulative GPA will be posted on the transcript for all students.

How do these changes to rank and GPA impact students outside the top 10%?

Since students outside the top 10% do not receive a Rank GPA - the changes specific to how Rank GPA is calculated will not impact these students.

However, the transition will include replacing the 100pt weighted scale and the 4pt unweighted scale with a single 4pt weighted scale to be reported on each student's transcript.

How will this new scale impact FHS students during the college application process?

The 5pt weighted scale will not impact FHS students as they move through the college application process. A large part of the research throughout this process was information gathering from other high achieving districts and universities most commonly applied to by FHS students. The consistent response is that the universities standardize all incoming data to create a level playing field. For example, these universities will have competing applicants from a variety of districts, all with different scales; therefore, they have no choice but to create a platform for equitable comparison. They will take each student's transcript and convert the grades to their own system for sorting and comparison.

What is the difference between the Rank GPA scale and the Cumulative GPA scale?

Both the Rank GPA and the Cumulative GPA will be calculated using the 5pt weighted scale. All courses taken after completion of 8th grade will be included when calculating the Cumulative GPA. Only CORE and World Languages courses will be used when calculating the Rank GPA.