

CVUSD VALEDICTORIAN POLICY REVISION LATIN HONORS PROPOSAL



**Board of Education Meeting
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CVUSD Latin Honors Proposal



01

Current Policy & Challenges

Review of current Board Policy and discussion of key challenges

02

Committee Work & Guiding Principles

Alignment with CVUSD core values and LCAP Goals

03

Proposed CVUSD Honors Model

Introduction of Latin Honors recognition

04

Benefits and Next Steps

Fairer, simpler, and more inclusive model with an implementation timeline for the Class of 2028



Current Policy & Practice

Results

Each high school produces a varying amount of valedictorians in every graduating class. School culture, coursework options, and size of the graduating class impact the number of valedictorians.

Board Policy 5127

Students achieving an Indexed Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.650 or above shall be designated as the Valedictorian. Indexed Grade Point Average: All Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate, and Dual Enrollment courses will earn an additional .02 points for an "A" and .01 points for a "B". These additional points are added to the Scholastic Grade Point Average to compute an Indexed Grade Point Average.

Timeline

The current valedictorian system seems to have been first implemented in 2007, and has persisted unchanged the past 18 years. Previously, each high school awarded a single valedictorian and salutatorian honor to the first and second ranked student in the graduating class.



Valedictorian Totals by School

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
NPHS	38	33	39	47	39
TOHS	16	22	22	22	18
WHS	50	52	70	57	66
Century	1	1*	1*	1*	1*
Conejo Valley HS	0	0	0	0	0

*Students did not earn a 4.65 Indexed GPA but had the highest GPA in the graduating class

Challenges

Social Emotional Well-being

Many students feel pressure to achieve a certain academic benchmark

Student pressure comes from self, peers, and parents

LCAP Goal 4: Enhance the social, emotional, physical and mental well-being for all students through targeted actions that support positive student outcomes.

Access

Valedictorian may be an impossible title to attain for some students with SAI or ELD coursework

Many students leverage external credits - some which are fee-based, to reach the GPA benchmark

The Indexed GPA calculation feels complex and arbitrary

Course Selection

Students shy away from selecting unweighted coursework such as Journalism, ASB, Theatre, Band, Chorus, and CTE programs

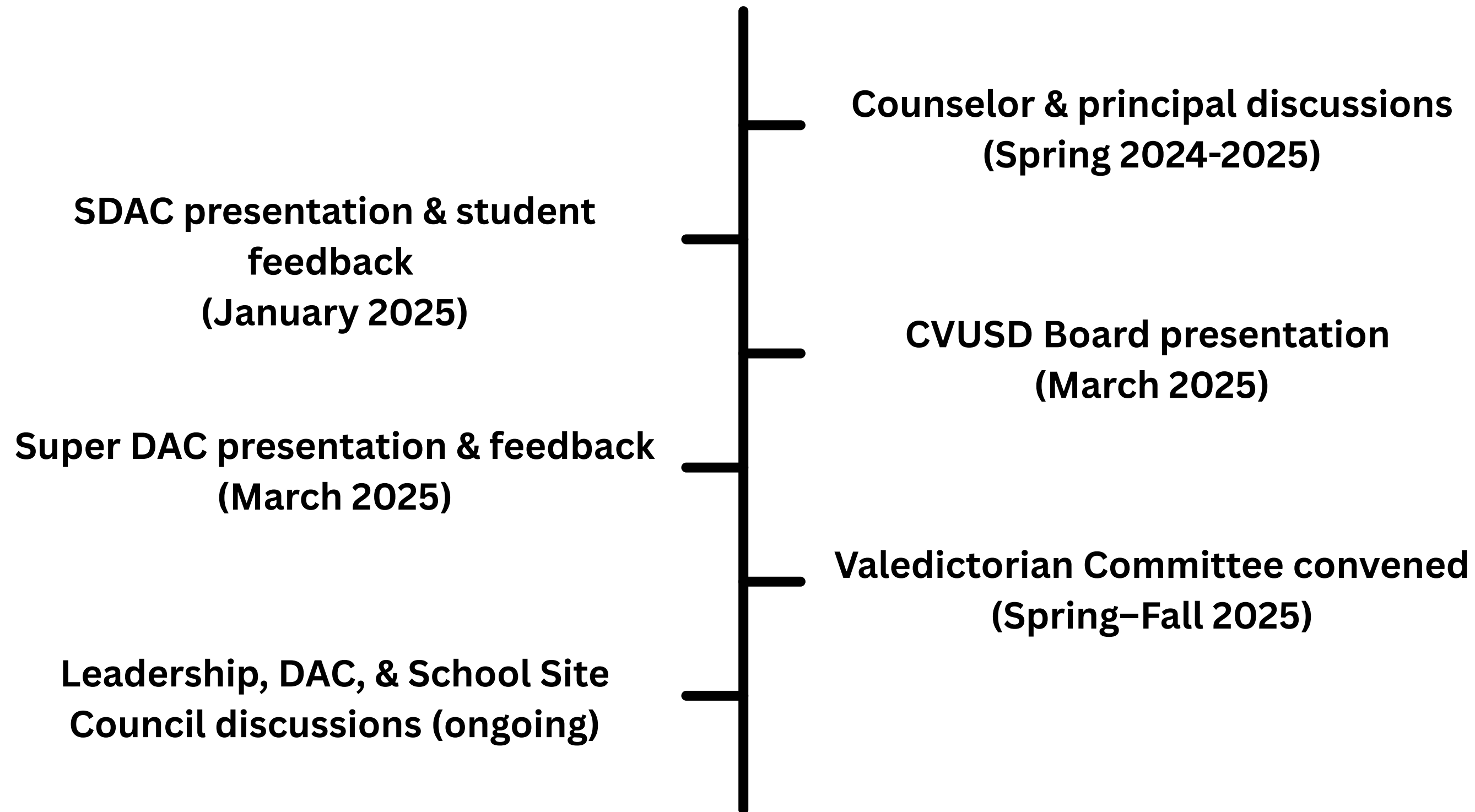
Valedictorians are less likely to participate in activity-based courses that lead to unweighted grades

CTE pathway completion is low for valedictorians

Students are motivated to take external courses as a grade-protecting measure



Input and Collaboration with Stakeholders



Committee Discussions

Fairness and opportunity for all students - Student well-being and stress Transparency in GPA weighting and recognition

- Analyzed existing model - strengths and concerns
- Reviewed other district models in Ventura Country & regionally
- Noted tension around increase of academic awards and recognition titles
- Identified personal values, beliefs, and biases through Likert-scales, open-ended reflection, and small group discussion
- Broad support for a simpler, more inclusive recognition system
- Discussed details (external credits, dual enrollment credits, weighted v. unweighted GPA) and the overall effect on recognition numbers districtwide
- Analyzed site data and trends under different proposals

Committee Results

- **Fairness and Consistency**

- Ensuring every student has an equal opportunity for recognition across all schools.

- **Clarity and Transparency**

- Creating a system that students, families, and staff can easily understand.

- **Authentic Recognition**

- Honoring academic achievement without inflating titles or rankings.

- **Balance and Well-Being**

- Encouraging academic challenge while supporting healthy motivation and balance.

- **Celebrating Diverse Pathways**

- Valuing students who excel in a variety of academic, CTE, arts, and enrichment courses.



Proposed Policy

Latin Honors Recognition System

Replaces the Indexed GPA Valedictorian model (est. 2007)

Honors academic excellence using weighted GPA bands

Aligns with college recognition standards and District LCAP Goals

Latin Honors Designations

Summa Cum Laude: GPA 3.90 and above

Magna Cum Laude: GPA 3.70 – 3.89

Cum Laude: GPA 3.50 – 3.69

**Graduation
Class of
2028**

**Current
10th-grade
students**

Key Features

- ✓ All coursework levels included (CP, Honors, AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CTE, Arts, ELD, SAI)
- ✓ Decision date for consideration - End of Semester 1 of students' 12th grade year
- ✓ Straight weighted GPA calculation — clear and easy to understand
- ✓ Recognizes a broader group of high-achieving students
- ✓ Reinforces balance, well-being, and inclusivity in academic recognition

The Numbers - Zooming In

CVUSD Class of 2024 Valedictorians

	VALS	GATE	504	IEP	MLL	CTE Completer
NPHS	47	28	0	0	0	2*
TOHS	22	13	0	0	0	0
WHS	57	25	6	0	0	2*
Total 12th Grade Graduates (NPHS, TOHS, WHS)	1,516	205	127	169	58	184

126 total valedictorians
1,516 total students in the Class of 2024

*Three of the four CTE students would not have qualified without Indexed GPA boost from external credits



The Numbers - Zooming In

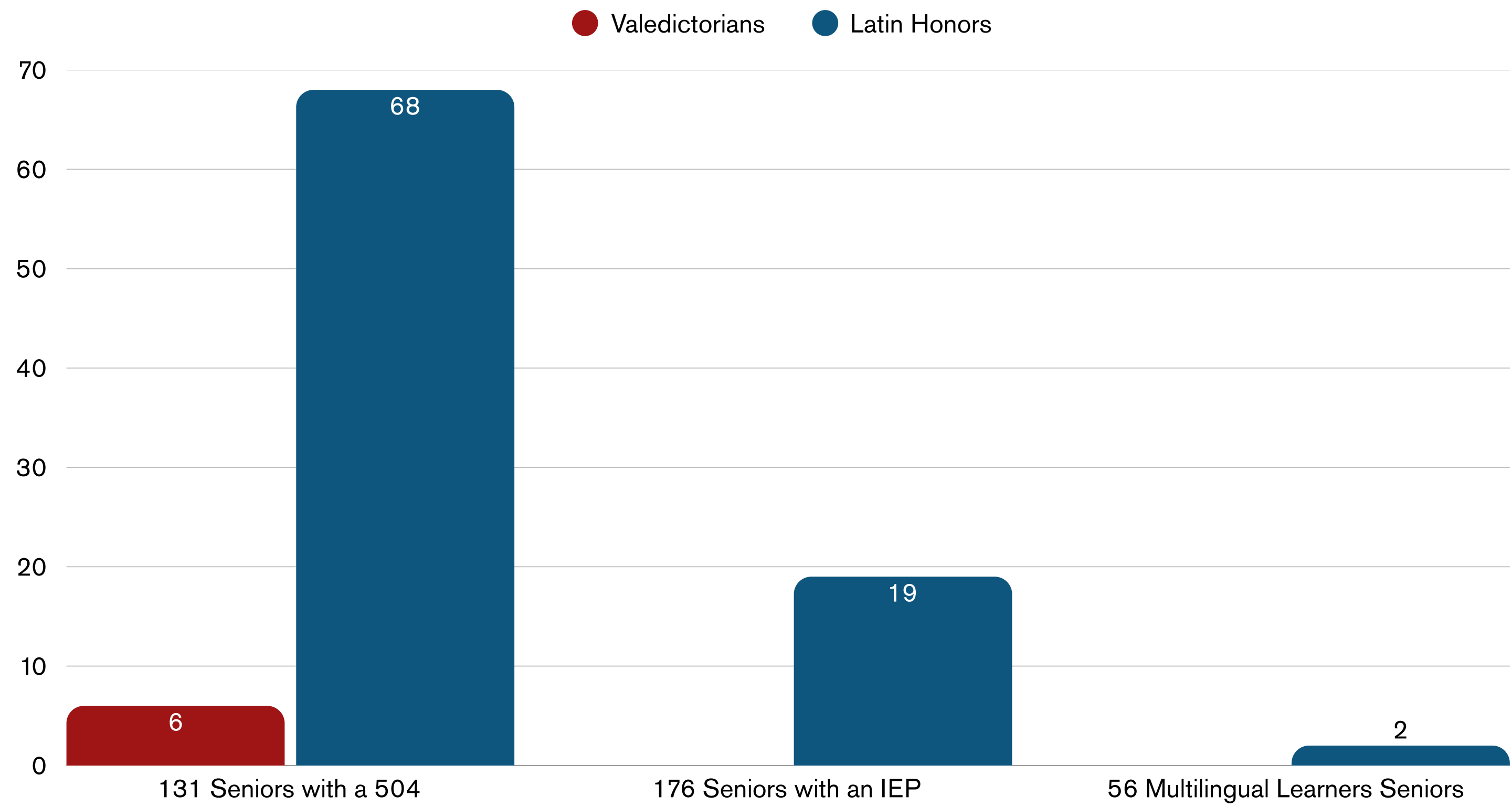
CVUSD Class of 2024 Latin Honors

	Latin Honors	131 Seniors with a 504	176 Seniors with an IEP	56 Multilingual Learner Seniors
NPHS	Summa Cum Laude	14	4	0
	Magna Cum Laude	5	2	0
	Cum Laude	6	2	1
TOHS	Summa Cum Laude	11	2	1
	Magna Cum Laude	2	5	0
	Cum Laude	2	1	0
WHS	Summa Cum Laude	17	1	0
	Magna Cum Laude	4	1	0
	Cum Laude	7	1	0
Totals		68	19	2



The Numbers - Zooming In

CVUSD Class of 2024 Valedictorian v. Latin Honors



The Numbers - Zooming In

CVUSD Class of 2025: Current Policy v. Proposed Policy

	WHS	TOHS	NPHS	Century	CVHS	CVUSD
Vals	66	18	39	1*	1*	125
Summa Cum Laude	249	116	169	6	0	540
Magna Cum Laude	35	28	46	3	0	112
Cum Laude	41	38	42	3	0	124

1,501 students in the CVUSD Class of 2025

**Student did not earn a 4.65 Indexed GPA but had the highest GPA in the graduating class*

Recognizing Excellence Across Every Pathway

Fair, Simple, and Transparent

- Straightforward, traditional GPA calculation visible in Q/on transcript
- Weighted GPA considers all scholastic credits on the CVUSD transcript
- Honors, AP, Dual Enrollment, IB, SAI, ELD, and CP courses are all included in one consistent calculation
- Removes barrier for transfer students



Recognizing Excellence Across Every Pathway



Inclusive and Balanced

- Allows students to achieve the highest honors band regardless of course level
- Encourages recognition across a broader range of abilities and interests
- Removes external coursework as a GPA-boosting motivator
- Does not deter participation in CTE, arts, or activity-based pathways



Recognizing Excellence Across Every Pathway

Aligned and Sustainable

- Aligns with traditional college academic honors systems
 - Summa, Magna, Cum Laude
- Eliminates the confusing and inequitable Indexed GPA
- Uniform and consistent across all CVUSD high schools—cords and recognition within graduation program
 - Opportunities for additional campus-specific celebratory activities

Recognition for Every Pathway.

- Honors academic excellence in a way that values both rigor and diversity of learning
- Fosters a culture of achievement, curiosity, and balance over competition

QUESTIONS?