

Board Approved: October 9, 2025

**FILE: IGG**

**Adopted: Nov. 23, 2004**

**Revised: Jan. 25, 2007**

**Revised: July 30, 2020**

**Revised: October, 9, 2025**

## Valedictorian and Salutatorian Policy

### I. Purpose

This policy establishes consistent criteria for determining the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of each graduating class, recognizing students who have achieved the highest level of academic excellence.

### II. Diploma Endorsements

The Marengo County School District offers four additional endorsements to the Alabama High School Diploma, recognizing academic and career-focused accomplishments.

<b>Option: Alabama High School Diploma (AHSD)</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
AHSD with Advanced Academic Endorsement	<b>Two (2)</b> Foreign Languages in same language  At least 2 AP or Dual Enrollment Core courses  <b>Science:</b> Includes at least 1 credit in Chemistry or Physics (a higher requirement than the state minimum) - <i>exclude 2025-2026 graduates</i> <b>Mathematics:</b> At least 1 credit in Algebra II with Statistics <b>GPA</b> $\geq$ 3.0 <b>Total Credits:</b> At least 26.0 credits (MCS Schools adds 2 extra credits beyond the Alabama minimum)
AHSD with Advanced CTE Endorsement  AHSD with CTE Endorsement	3 sequenced CTE Credits + Algebra II w Stats, 24 total credits  GPA $\geq$ 3.0  3 sequenced CTE Credits, 24 total credits  GPA $\geq$ 3.0

Alabama Workforce Endorsement	<p><b>Mathematics:</b> 2 Credits (e.g., Algebra I and Geometry)  <b>Science:</b> 2 Credits (e.g., Biology and Physical Science)</p> <p>3 CTE Sequence, 6 Electives  1 Physical Education, 1 Career Preparedness, .5 Health, .5 Fine Arts</p> <p>24 total credits</p>
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**III. Eligibility for Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

- 1. Diploma Requirement** - Candidates must earn the highest-level academic diploma or endorsement offered by the district.
- 2. Minimum Enrollment** - Must be enrolled at the graduating school for four (4) consecutive semesters prior to graduation (excluding summer).
- 3. Transfer Grades-** Grades from other accredited schools will be converted to the district numeric scale if not provided in numeric form:

A+ = 99	B+ = 89	C+ = 79	D+ = 69	F = 59
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 65	
A- = 90	B- = 80	C- = 70	D- = 60	

- 4. Decision Authority** - The principal, in consultation with the Superintendent, will resolve eligibility or calculation issues.

**IV. Class Rank and GPA Calculation**

- 1. Courses Included** - All attempted high school credit courses (grades 9-12) that count toward graduation are included. This covers the core areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, as well as Foreign Language and other credit-bearing

courses required for graduation.

**2. Calculation Method** - Weighted numeric GPA is calculated to the fifth decimal place without rounding.

**3. Weighting System:**

<b>Regular Courses</b>	<b>Advanced Level Courses, AP Course w/o Exam (Quality Points = .5)</b>	<b>AP/Dual Enrollment CORE Courses (Quality Points = 1)</b>
A=4.0	A=4.5	A=5.0
B=3.0	B=3.5	B=4.0
C=2.0	C=2.5	C=3.0
D=1.0	D=1.0	D=1.0
F =0.0	F =0.0	F =0.0

**4. Transfer Credit Weighting** - Weight assigned by the issuing accredited school will be honored.

**5. Early Graduates** - Ranked with their original four-year cohort

**6. Final Rank Determination** - At the end of the semester closest to May graduation.

**V. Selection Process**

- Highest weighted GPA = Valedictorian
- Second highest weighted GPA = Salutatorian
- Exact ties (to five decimal places) will result in co-honors.

**VI. Verification**

All GPA and rank calculations will be reviewed by the principal and guidance counselor, with final approval by the Superintendent.