

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M. REMOTE**

Members Remote: Andrea Ackerman, Mitch Shinbrot

Members Absent: Ian Thomas

Also Remote: Anne Marie Mancini, Matt Brown, Carmita Hodge, Amy McKenna, Samantha Singleton

Shinbrot called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Review Meeting Minutes: November 3, 2025 and December 1, 2025

The minutes were reviewed and accepted.

2. Review Middle School Program of Studies

Singleton explained that this is the whole course catalog. When the catalog goes out to students and parents, it lists only the classes available to the grade level of the student. She explained some of the courses and also discussed some of the electives. Course selection is done via PowerSchool. Ackerman wanted to know in-depth information on the English classes, specifically in public speaking, grammar and when they learn specific things. Singleton described the classes and how they work. Mancini stated we use the Common Core and that outlines specifically when standards are taught.

3. Review High School Program of Studies

McKenna described the course catalog. The catalog is 75 pages long. There are some teachers who are going for dual enrollment credit for classes. McKenna described the process students go through for course selection. Teachers will make recommendations for course selection to students. She also goes into depth about what happens from the school side from selection to master schedule. School counselors are also a big part of the process. They also check to make sure that they are meeting the guidelines required to graduate.

4. Discuss removal of Class Rank

Brown has proposed removing the publishing of Class Rank at the end of each semester. He wants to add the following to the Program of Studies; "Starting with the class of 2030, we will no longer publish class rank at the end of each semester. After the seventh semester of high school, the school counseling department and administration will announce the valedictorian and salutatorian for the graduating class." They are finding it is adding an extra stress to students. Other schools in the State are doing the same thing. Class Rank is still used to determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The committee discussed the concept. We will still keep Class Rank but no longer publish it. The committee recommends moving it to the full Board.

5. Review Referral Tracking Sheet

The committee reviewed the tracking sheet. They would like to remove R2022-16 as it was discussed tonight.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M.



Removing Class Rank

Fitch's Reasoning to Remove From Transcript

CLASS RANK - We will be adding the sentences in red:

Class rank, considered for admission by some colleges, is based on all grades. It is computed at the end of each semester for students. Class Rank is determined officially at the end of semester 1 of their senior year. **Starting with the class of 2030, we will no longer publish class rank at the end of each semester. After the seventh semester of high school, the school counseling department and administration will announce the valedictorian and salutatorian for the graduating class.**

February 3, 2026



Class Rank Discussion with ECC Principals

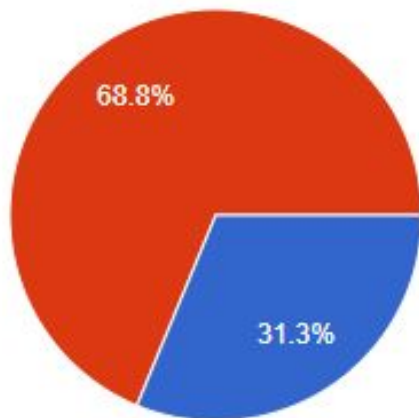


Do you still publish class rank?

16 responses



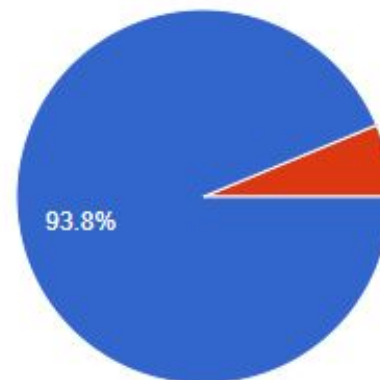
● Yes
● No



Do you use class rank to determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian?

16 responses

● Yes
● No



Open Ended Responses

ECC Principal's Input Regarding Class Rank:

- We don't use a Val/Sal model. We have _____ Scholars, who are selected based on class rank, AP courses, standardized test scores, etc. So, I said "yes" to that question, but it's not quite as straightforward.
- Even without class rank, students track their gpa down to the hundredth of a point. I would be concerned about the added pressure of communicating class rank. It's also my understanding that colleges put very little weight into rank given the variation in how this is calculated from school to school.
- We compute class rank, but only share which students are Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

The logo for Eastern Connecticut College (ECC) features the letters "ECC" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a white background that is shaped like the outline of the state of Connecticut.

"Students fixate on competing with other students and it drives students and parents to levels of stress and competition that are not in the best interest of students"



Open Ended Responses



ECC Principal's Input Regarding Class Rank:

- We obviously have to keep it for scholarship/book award purposes too, but we do not post it or report it out and we removed it from transcripts years ago. If students come to our counselors and asks if their rank qualifies them for any scholarships, they privately share whether they do or don't.
- We do have a form that students can fill out if they would like the rank reported to their schools. The default practice is not to report, but there are some circumstances that sharing this data is beneficial to the student and their candidacy.
- We only recognize Val and Sal - stopped publishing top 10 several years ago.
- We are in the process of going to the BOE to remove published class rank. We are still keeping Val/Sal for UConn scholarship opportunities
- We only publish the top 10.



Open Ended Responses



ECC Principal's Input Regarding Class Rank:

- Not that this alleviated all parent and student concerns when we made this decision but...in a big school, someone who is ranked 50th in their class might be just as accomplished a student as someone who is ranked in the top 10 in a smaller school. What does rank really mean?? It's such a localized measure--just like what does a grade of an A really mean? I think the strongest arguments would come from college admissions staff. I don't think that they value it very highly for the reasons given but it might be worth getting a quote from UConn, for example.
- Reached out to UConn for Statement Regarding Class Rank



[Link to Scholarship Opportunities at UConn](#)