

Procedure for Selecting Class Orators for 2027 Graduation and Beyond

Board Policy IKC: Class Rankings

In the interest of encouraging and recognizing outstanding academic achievement, a valedictorian and salutatorian will be selected for each high school graduating class.

The valedictorian and salutatorian will be selected according to the following procedure:

1. The valedictorian will be the student with the highest grade point average as computed at the end of the first five weeks of the fourth quarter of high school work.
2. The salutatorian will be the student with the second highest grade point average as computed at the end of the first five weeks of the fourth quarter of high school work.
3. In case of a tie for valedictorian, co-valedictorians will be honored.
4. In case of a tie for salutatorian, co-salutatorians will be honored.

To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, a student must be enrolled within the school district prior to and continuously following the 10th school day of the student's senior year.

The intent of this policy is to encourage the recognition of the top two students in each graduating class. Students must complete the honors curriculum to be identified as valedictorian or salutatorian. GPA is the only measure beyond honors curriculum completion. Co-valedictorians and/or salutatorians can be recognized.

Board Policy IKFB: Graduation Exercises

“The superintendent or designee will plan an appropriate ceremony...Speakers at graduation ceremonies are subject to the provisions of policy INC.

The superintendent designates responsibility for planning the graduation ceremony to the high school principal. Board Policy INC provides guidance regarding the selection of student speakers at graduation.

Board Policy INC: Speakers at District Events

Selection of Student Speakers at Public Events

It is a privilege for students to be allowed to speak at district-sponsored public events. All student speakers must be in good standing with the district, as defined by the district, in order to be eligible to speak.

Student speakers at public district events will be selected based on viewpoint-neutral criteria in accordance with law including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The district will select student speakers for graduation from among those graduates with the highest grade-point average, those with notable accomplishments or those who served as the senior class or student body president.

If more than one valedictorian and/or salutatorian is recognized in the graduating class, two class orators will be selected using the following objective criteria used to determine eligibility. The criteria are adapted from the MOASSP Missouri Scholars 100 Academic Decathlon:

1. The student must have earned at least two units of credit or be currently enrolled and passing in courses that will accumulate to two units of credit, in foreign language(s).
2. The student must have exemplary attendance and must not have been absent for more than a total of twenty days in grades nine through twelve, regardless of the reason, except for school excused activities.
3. The student must be an exemplary school citizen.
4. The student must have:
 - a. served, or be currently serving, as an officer in a school organization, class, or club, at the level of vice-president or president, OR
 - b. earned a school letter, other than an academic letter, equivalent to the varsity level, in any activity for which school letters are awarded, AND
 - c. participated in a community service project(s) to which a significant amount of personal time was committed.

If more than two of the valedictorians and/or salutatorians meet the criteria above, the following selection formula will be applied:

1. Grade point average multiplied by 250, maximum possible = 1000
2. ACT composite score (not including optional ACT writing score) multiplied by 27.778, maximum possible = 1000
3. Total score = GPA score + ACT score, maximum possible = 2000

The two valedictorians or salutatorians with the highest total scores will be selected as class orators. If more than two valedictorians or salutatorians remain because of a tie in total scores, the number of foreign language credits, cumulative attendance, citizenship, involvement in activities/athletics, and community service will be evaluated as tie breakers.