

Spring Branch ISD

Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.



Class Rank Policy



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
CLASS RANKING

EIC
(LOCAL)

In addition to the designation of a valedictorian and a salutatorian of the graduating class, there shall be designated honor students to be recognized at the commencement exercises as follows:

1. Graduating magna cum laude—the upper five percent of the class.
2. Graduating cum laude—the next highest ten percent of the class.

Each student's rank in class shall be recorded on the academic record. Class rank shall be determined by a weighted grade point system established by the District. Grades earned in approved District distance learning/virtual courses taken as part of the normal course load (the number of periods in a normal school day as established by each campus) shall be included in the calculation of class rank. Grades earned in approved District distance learning/virtual courses in excess of the normal course load shall not be included in this calculation.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian, a student must have a minimum of 19 credits by the midterm of his or her senior year.

HONOR GRADUATE
CERTIFICATE AND
DECLARATION

In accordance with Education Code 54.201, the governing board of each institution of higher education may issue scholarships each year to the highest ranking graduate of each accredited high school of this state, exempting the graduates from the payment of tuition during both semesters of the first regular session immediately following their graduation.

When a high school has more than one student qualifying for top honors, the high school principal shall select a committee to determine which student tying for valedictorian honors at the principal's high school shall be awarded the honor graduate certificate and declaration.

The committee shall have the option of considering the following criteria in reviewing the applicants:

1. All students qualifying for valedictorian honors who plan to attend a state-supported college or university.
2. The numerical average of each student's previous years' grades.
3. SAT scores taken by each student during his or her high school career.
4. An essay written by each student on a topic of the committee's choice.

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5. Documented community service hours performed by each student during his or her high school career.
6. The number of District courses completed by each student during his or her high school career.

The committee shall document the procedure used to identify the top honor graduate.

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AUTOMATIC
ADMISSION TO
INSTITUTION OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

Each general academic teaching institution [see Education Code 61.003(3)] shall admit an applicant for admission as an undergraduate student if the applicant:

1. Graduated:
 - a. With a grade point average in the top ten percent of the student's high school graduating class in one of the two school years preceding the academic year for which the applicant is applying for admission and submitted a complete application defined by the institution before the expiration of the institution's established deadline; or
 - b. In the top 25 percent of the student's high school class, to the extent the governing board of a general academic teaching institution has adopted such an admission policy;

[See CLASS RANK, below]

2. Graduated from a public high school in Texas accredited by a generally recognized accrediting organization;
3. Successfully completed the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program as described in 19 Administrative Code 5.5(c), or satisfied ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks on the ACT assessment applicable to the applicant or earned on the SAT assessment a score of at least 1,500 out of 2,400 or the equivalent; and
4. Submitted an official high school transcript or diploma that, not later than the end of the student's junior year, indicates whether the student has satisfied the requirements outlined above regarding successful completion of the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program.

Education Code 51.803(a); 19 TAC 5.5(b)

EXCEPTION

Beginning with admissions for the 2011–12 academic year, the University of Texas at Austin (UT) is not required to offer admission to applicants who qualify for automatic admission in excess of the number required to fill 75 percent of the university's enrollment capacity designated for first-time resident undergraduate students in an academic year.

If the number of applicants who apply to UT for admission in the next academic year and who qualify for automatic admission exceeds 75 percent of UT's enrollment capacity, UT shall, not later than September 15, provide to each district, for dissemination to

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high school juniors and their parents, notice of which percentile ranks of high school seniors who qualify for automatic admission are anticipated to be offered admission during the next school year.

Education Code 51.803(a-1)–(a-2)

CURRICULUM
REQUIREMENTS

An applicant who does not satisfy the curriculum requirements for the Recommended or Advanced/Distinguished Achievement High School Program is considered to have satisfied those requirements if the student completed the portion of the Recommended or Advanced curriculum that was available to the student but was unable to complete the remainder solely because the necessary courses were unavailable to the student at the appropriate times in the student's high school career as a result of course scheduling, lack of enrollment capacity, or another cause not within the student's control. A student's transcript or diploma must, not later than the student's junior year, indicate the student's progress toward satisfying the curriculum requirements [see EI]. *Education Code 51.803(b), (c)*

SIGNS TO BE
POSTED

The Board shall require each high school in the District to post appropriate signs in each counselor's office, in each principal's office, and in each administrative building indicating the substance of the automatic admission provisions above. *Education Code 28.026*

DISSEMINATION

To assist in dissemination of information regarding the automatic admissions program, the District shall:

1. Require that each high school counselor and class advisor be provided a detailed explanation of the substance of the program;
2. Provide each student, at the time the student first registers for one or more classes required for high school graduation, with a written notification, using the appropriate form adopted by the Commissioner, of the substance of the program;
3. Require that each high school counselor and senior class advisor explain to eligible students the substance of the program;
4. Require that, at the beginning of grades 10 and 11, a certified counselor explain the requirements of automatic admission to a general academic teaching institution to each student who has a grade point average in the top 25 percent of the student's high school class [see EJ]; and
5. Not later than the 14th day after the last day of classes for the fall semester or an equivalent date in the case of a school operated on a year-round system, provide each eligible senior

student and each junior student who has a grade point average in the top ten percent of the student's high school class, and the student's parent or guardian, with a written notification, using the appropriate form adopted by the Commissioner, of the student's eligibility with a detailed explanation in plain language of the substance of the program. The District shall obtain written acknowledgment of receipt of the notification from each eligible student and the student's parent or guardian.

Education Code 28.026, 33.007(c); 19 TAC 61.1201

Note: The Notification of Eligibility for Automatic College Admission, intended to satisfy the requirement at item 5 above, is available at <http://info.sos.state.tx.us/fids/201001908-1.pdf>.

CLASS RANK

High school rank for students seeking automatic admission to a general teaching institution on the basis of their class rank is determined and reported as follows:

1. Most recent available class rank, based on a point in time no earlier than the end of the 11th grade, shall be used for admission decision-making.
2. The top ten percent and top 25 percent of a high school class shall not contain more than ten percent and top 25 percent, respectively, of the total class size.
3. The student's rank shall be reported by the applicant's high school or District as a specific number out of a specific number total class size.
4. Class rank shall be determined by the Texas school or district from which the student graduated or is expected to graduate.

19 TAC 5.5(f)

CERTAIN
PROGRAMS

If the program meets the requirements of Education Code 51.8045, the Board may treat a high school magnet program, academy, or other special program conducted by the District at a high school attended by high school students who are not in the special program as an independent high school with its own graduating class for purposes of Education Code 51.803 and 51.804 only (top ten and top 25 percent rule). *Education Code 51.8045*

