

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

I. PURPOSE

To outline certain eligibility requirements for the distinction of Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

II. SCOPE

This policy applies to high school students within the Shelby County Schools.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

To be eligible for the distinction as Valedictorian or Salutatorian, the student must satisfy the eligibility requirements outlined in the administrative rules and regulations to this policy.

A student who graduates at an accelerated pace, completes the 22 state-required graduation requirements, and is ranked first or second in the class shall be recognized with the designation of accelerated valedictorian or accelerated salutatorian, respectively.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

A. The Superintendent is responsible for ensuring that this policy is followed.

Legal References:

Cross References:

1. 5004 Graduation Requirements

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Administrative Rules and Regulations

Revised: 01/30/18

Computing Grade Point Average (GPA) [Applies to all high school students]

Shelby County Schools Weighted GPA - The weighted GPA is computed using all grades earned 1) in grades 9-12 and 2) in all courses for which high school credit was awarded using numerical values inclusive of summer school grades, semester averages, and semester exams with additional grade points and the following quality point scales:

Applicable to Students Entering High School Prior to the 2016 – 2017 School Year

| Level | A | B | C | D | F |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Standard | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Honors/Applicable Dual Enrollment Level | 4.5 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 0 |
| AP/IB/Applicable Dual Enrollment Level | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

Applicable Beginning with the SY 2016 – 2017 Ninth Grade Class

| Level | A | B | C | D | F |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Standard | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Honors/Capstone Industry Certification-Aligned | 4.5 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 1.5 | 0 |
| Statewide Dual Credit | 4.75 | 3.75 | 2.75 | 1.75 | 0 |
| AP/IB/Cambridge/Dual Enrollment | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

Hope Scholarship GPA - The GPA used to determine eligibility for the Hope Scholarship shall be reported on the student’s transcript as the “Hope Scholarship GPA” and shall be calculated in accordance with the implementation guidance of the Tennessee State Board of Education Uniform Grading Policy (#3.301). Additionally, for purposes of the Hope Scholarship GPA, a student may repeat any failed course and the failing grade for the first attempt will not be considered in the Hope Scholarship Eligibility Grade Point Average calculation. The grade of all repeats of the course shall be counted as part of the Hope Scholarship Eligibility Grade Point Average. Moreover, for students passing credit recovery courses, the original failing grade shall not be considered in the HOPE Scholarship Eligibility Grade Point Average calculation.

Determining Class Rank [Applies to graduating high school students and uses the SCS Weighted GPA]

1. Sixteen (16) units of credit will be required for calculating grade point average and determining class rank for graduating students.

2. For class rank, the GPA is determined at the end of the first semester of the year of graduation.

- All grades for seven semesters of high school will be counted for all subjects (i.e., 9th, 10th, 11th, and the first semester of 12th grade) and grades in all courses for which high school credit was awarded.

- For semester courses of more than 1/2 units of credit, the grade will be counted for each 1/2 unit of credit. Examples: a semester technical course for 1 unit with a grade of B would be counted as two (2) B's; a semester vocational course for 1 1/2 units with a grade of A would be counted as three (3) A's.

3. Marks for all subjects attempted for which unit credit or fractional unit credit is given, whether passed or failed, are recorded and used in computing grade point average. Summer school credits are to be included in computing grade point average.

4. If two or more students have the same grade point average, the numerical averages of the students shall be determined. The student with the highest numerical average shall receive the highest rank; the student with the next highest numerical average shall receive the next highest rank; etc.

The rounding methodology used shall be consistent with the implementation guidance of the Tennessee State Board of Education Uniform Grading Policy (# 3.301). Specifically, the GPA shall be reported to the nearest 100th. The thousandth digit must be a 5 or higher to round up to the next hundredth. For example, a GPA of 3.296 would round up to 3.30. A GPA of 3.2949 would round down to 3.29. Moreover, numerical averages with a decimal point of .5 or higher shall be rounded up to a whole number and a decimal point of .49 or lower shall not be rounded up. For example, a numerical average in a course of 92.50 shall be rounded up to a 93 and awarded an A for the GPA calculation. Further, a numerical average of 92.49 shall not be rounded up and awarded a 92 or B for the GPA calculation.

5. If two or more students have the same numerical average, those students should be given the same rank, one position below the next highest student. The student next

below those tied should be given a rank determined by the total number of students whose average exceeds his. (For example, if three students in a class of 75 are tied for fifth place, they should be given a rank of 5/75. The next student would be ranked 8/75.)

Eligibility for Valedictorian and Salutatorian [Uses the SCS Weighted GPA]

Cohort

All graduating students are included in class rank. However, students must meet the following eligibility requirements to be considered for the distinction of valedictorian or salutatorian:

1. The student must have completed seven (7) semesters of high school (i.e., 9th, 10th, 11th, and the first semester of 12th grade). Therefore, graduating juniors are excluded from valedictorian and salutatorian consideration.
2. The student must have been enrolled and completed his/her second semester 10th grade, both semesters of 11th grade, and first semester 12th grade at the high school from which the student is graduating. (The student must graduate from said high school.)
3. The student must not be an early graduating student under the Move on When Ready Act (see policy 5004 Graduation Requirements).

The highest ranking student who meets the eligibility requirements above is the valedictorian. Multiple valedictorians may exist.

The second highest ranking student who meets the eligibility requirements above is the salutatorian. Multiple salutatorians may exist.

Accelerated Pace

A student who graduates at an accelerated pace, completes the 22 state-required graduation requirements, and is ranked first or second in the class shall be recognized with the designation of accelerated valedictorian or accelerated salutatorian, respectively.

Students included in the class rank during a graduation year who do not qualify for consideration as valedictorian or salutatorian because of eligibility requirements above may be otherwise recognized by the school and should be provided with an official letter from the school indicating their class rank.