

Executive Summary: Policy 9742 and Class Rank

Summary:

Last year, the rankings of students in the class of 2010 were affected by the change-over from policy 9743 to policy 9742 because of the way that weight was attributed to students' GPAs. The full implementation of Policy 9742 for this year's graduating class addressed this issue. The problem that has come to light this year in regards to Policy 9742 revolves around the credit awarded for courses.

The Board adopted this policy in its current form for two reasons. First, students who were enrolled in a college course for dual enrollment were completing what would have been a full year course for the traditional high school course in one semester. Secondly, in the case of SBU, students were giving up two or more periods per day to accommodate the SBU schedule and travel time to the SBU campus. There was a concern that students would not be in a position to complete enough courses to meet graduation requirements because of the lost time. This resulted in the Board opting to afford one full credit for dual enrollment course and an additive of 10 for weight which is typical for an AP/Sual Enrollment course. Prior to this decision, credit was a value of time spent in the classroom while weight was a measure of difficulty of the course work.

This year, as students have begun to earn credit and post grades, many of which exceed 100% once weight and credit are calculated, it has become clear that there is an equity issue for students regarding the number of opportunities to accumulate full credit weighted courses at the AP/Dual Enrollment value. Students who attend SBU have an opportunity to earn up to ten weighted credits each year they attend. Students who remain in the high school following a traditional schedule have the opportunity to earn only eight credits per year and it is unlikely that more than 4-5 of those courses would be weighted at the AP/Dual Enrollment value. Students at YHS and SAMHS actually have fewer opportunities since only 3 AP courses are offered at YHS and 2 at SAMHS.

In calculating GPA, if a student is earning over 100% once weight and credit are determined, then including non-weighted courses even if the grade is 100% actually decreases the student GPA. While this situation is not new, it was fairly equitable when all students could take approximately the same number of weighted courses.

Suggestions for resolution:

A committee has been established that has taken a look at this situation. The committee would like to make some recommendations for policy revision, but is still working to formulate that recommendation while studying what is going on in other schools and with other dual enrollment programs. The group has also been working with colleges to determine how certain systems might be viewed with regard to college admissions and scholarships. The group would like to have a couple of more meetings and prepare suggestions for the Board which will include ideas for policy revision.

In the meantime, to address this year's graduating class, the Committee would like to respectfully suggest to CIT that they consider a solution for this year that mirrors the way that the situation was resolved last year by running class rank two ways. First, the rank would be run as is according to the currently adopted Board Policy. Second, rank would be run again while awarding .5 credit to dual enrollment courses which accomplishes the purpose of awarding credit according to time spent in the classroom and weight according to difficulty of the course work. We would then compare the lists and name co- valedictorians, co- salutatorians and/or co-historians wherever it is appropriate based upon the rank order of the graduates.

Recommended Motion:

That the Board of School Directors approves the process of running two different rank calculations for the purposes of establishing Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Historian for the 2011 graduating class. The first rank calculation would be according to the current Policy 9742. The second calculation would award .5 credit for courses completed within a semester and weight courses according to Policy 9742.