

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF BOARD RULE: INITIAL READING
6Gx13- 5B-1.061, RANK IN CLASS-GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS**

This item is submitted for consideration by the Board to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 5B-1.061, Rank in Class - Grade Point Average. The proposed changes in the rule reflect actions by the Florida Legislature and the School Board. Additional changes have been made to incorporate current District procedures and enter new language, as appropriate.

Highlights of amendments to the *Board Rule* include:

- Accelerated graduation options;
- Virtual school credits;
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) credits;
- Changes to the Forgiveness Policy;
- Changes to the weighting of dual enrollment classes;
- Florida's Talented 20 Program;
- Phasing out the valedictorian and salutatorian and phasing in the *Cum Laude* recognition system as approved by the Board and incorporated in the 2005-2006 Student Progression Plan.

Any subsequent changes that would have an impact on this rule based upon future interpretations or clarification of legislation by the Florida Department of Education will be communicated to appropriate staff by means of memoranda.

Attached are Notice of Intended Action and the rule proposed for amendment. Changes from the current rule are indicated by underscoring words to be added and ~~striking through~~-words to be deleted.

Authorization of the Board is requested for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the amendment of Board Rule 6Gx13- 5B-1.061, Rank in Class - Grade Point Average.

C-101

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 5B-1.061, Rank in Class - Grade Point Average.

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on March 14, 2007, its intention to amend Board Rule 6Gx13- 5B-1.061, Rank in Class - Grade Point Average, at its meeting of April 18, 2007.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The recommended amendment to this rule is the result of actions by the Florida Legislature, interpretations or clarifications by the Florida Department of Education of statutes, Florida Board of Education rules, or School Board action. In addition, recommendations from various stakeholder groups have been incorporated into this rule.

SUMMARY: The rule establishes the process by which senior high school students are recognized for their academic achievement within Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: 1001.41(1) (2); 1001.42 (23); 1001.43 (10) F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC: 1001.43(6) (8); 1003.428; 1003.429; 1003.43; 1003.437; 1006.15; 1007.271; 1007.272; 1008.25 F.S.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF April 18, 2007, which begins at 1:00 p.m., in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided in Section 120.541(1), F.S., must do so in writing by April 9, 2007, to the Superintendent of Schools, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED RULE is available at cost to the public for inspection and copying in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Ms. Antoinette Dunbar
Supervisor: Dr. Rudolph F. Crew
Date: February 28, 2007

Progress**RANK IN CLASS--GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

Procedures stated below are to be used to compute grade point averages and rank in class for all students.

- I. Students shall be ranked on the basis of credits earned in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12. Students selecting one of the 18-credit accelerated graduation option programs shall be ranked on the basis of credits earned in grades 9, 10, 11 and/or 12. Students selecting one of the three-year programs must be treated equally with students graduating via the minimum 24-credit general high school graduation program in all ways, including eligibility for Talented 20 program. This includes eligibility for the valedictorian and salutatorian which will end with the class of 2006-2007. Exceptional students who are earning credits toward a standard diploma shall be included in the official rank-in-class record. The first ranking shall be calculated in September. The second ranking for the official rank-in-class record shall be calculated in February. Mid-twelfth grade progress grades shall be included in the official rank-in-class calculation. Credits and bonus points for mid-twelfth grade progress grades shall be calculated at one-half the annual value. Students included in the ranking shall have earned ~~fifteen~~ sixteen credits, which ~~is~~ are determined to be the minimum credits necessary for students to ~~have a reasonable chance to graduate in given year.~~ be considered for twelfth grade placement.
- II. Grades shall be used in all subjects for which credit is given.
 - A. Courses taken other than in the regular school program shall be included in the computation, if prior approval for credit had been granted by the senior high school principal.
 - B. Course grades from private schools, virtual schools, and other public schools outside of Miami-Dade County will be included in the ranking procedure if the sending school is granting the student credit for the courses taken. Courses must be validated by the school upon transfer of the student to Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).
 - C. Bonus points earned at other Florida public schools will be included in the ranking procedure if such courses carry bonus points in ~~Miami-Dade County Public Schools M-DCPS~~, and these courses carry the State-designated course code number from the State Florida Course Code Directory. ~~Effective with 1995 graduates, b~~Bonus points for Honors course credits

earned at any other public or non-public schools, accredited by a recognized regional, national, or international accrediting agency, will be awarded only for those courses which carry bonus points in ~~Miami-Dade County Public Schools~~ M-DCPS and/or appear in the Florida Course Code Directory. The number of bonus points to be awarded will be equivalent to the number of bonus points established by this rule. The number of bonus points awarded by another school district or school does not apply.

- D. Bonus points for Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses will be included in the ranking procedure for course credits earned at schools other than ~~Miami-Dade County Public Schools~~ M-DCPS.
- E. ~~Effective with credits earned after September 1, 1998,~~ Bonus points for dual enrollment courses will be included in the ranking procedure for courses completed at a college or university.
- F. ~~Effective with courses completed after September 1, 1998 and thereafter, any student in grades 9 through 12 or a middle school (grade 6, 7, or 8) student who enrolls in and completes a course designed for senior high school students and has received a grade of D or F as the final grade, may repeat that course or a course in the same category in order to improve the grade previously earned. For example, a student failing a mathematics course may replace it with another mathematics course. The higher of the two grades will be used to compute the GPA. When it is replaced, the lower grade will not be used to compute the GPA, but will remain on the student's transcript and in the student's permanent record. The forgiveness policy for senior high school courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of D or F with a grade C or higher earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. Elective courses shall be limited to replacing a grade D or F with a grade C or higher earned subsequently in another course. Any course grade not replaced must be included in the calculation of the grade point average required for graduation. The course may be repeated in a regular Miami-Dade County Public Schools M-DCPS program during the regular school year, in an adult education center, and/or during a summer session. A student may not repeat a lower course of a clearly established sequence of courses in which a D has been earned after a higher course of the sequence has been successfully completed. For example, a student may not repeat Algebra I after receiving credit for Algebra II. Forgiven grades will not be used in the calculation of~~

the grade point average for graduation; however, all forgiven courses and grades must be included on a student's transcript as an accurate reflection of the student's record of achievement.

The restrictions on forgiveness do not apply to middle school students while they are enrolled in district approved senior high school courses in grades 6, 7, 8.

This procedure will be used for computing the grade point average for the purposes of high school graduation, class ranking, eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities, and postsecondary applications.

- G. A middle school (grade 6, 7, or 8) student who enrolls in and ~~completes~~ earns a grade in a course designed for senior high school students, as approved in the ~~Pupil~~ Student Progression Plan, shall have the course included for credit toward high school graduation, and in the computation of the grade point average (GPA) for rank in class, if the parent approves, in writing, the inclusion of that course credit. ~~Such approval shall be given in~~ The parent must accept or reject such credit by the end of September of the student's ninth grade year.

If the decision is made that the course shall not be included for credit toward graduation: (a) credit for the course will only be granted in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade in which it was earned, and (b) the student is entitled to ~~shall~~ receive the grade earned for the same course if repeated in the senior high school.

- III. All students shall be ranked in accordance with percentile ratings. Ties in grade point average will be given the same percentile rank.
- IV. Students who graduate in 2007 shall be identified for school honors, such as the valedictorian or the salutatorian, if such appointments are made by the school, on the basis of grade point average. A student, who transfers to ~~Miami-Dade County Public Schools~~ M-DCPS after the start of his/her junior year and is included in the rank in class process, will not displace a student who has attended ~~Miami-Dade County Public Schools~~ M-DCPS for three or more years in senior high school. Such students may be named co-valedictorian or co-salutatorian.

In addition, a three-tiered academic recognition system will continue to be phased-in with the graduation class of 2007. The levels of academic recognition are as follows:

1. Summa Cum Laude: the upper 5% of the graduation class using a weighted GPA
2. Magna Cum Laude: the upper 10% of the graduating class, excluding the Summa Cum Laude group, using a weighted GPA
3. Cum Laude: the upper 15% of the graduating class, excluding the Summa and Magna Cum Laude group, using a weighted GPA of students who have a 4.0 GPA or higher

Students in the top 20% of their graduating class may qualify for the Florida Talented 20 Program based on academic eligibility requirements. For the purposes of the Talented 20 Program, placement in the top 20% of the senior class must be based upon the ranking by cumulative grade point average after the posting of seventh semester grades. Senior high schools that include both a traditional and a magnet program must report separate lists. These are the top 20% of the senior class in the magnet program and the top 20% of the senior class in the traditional programs. The sum of both lists cannot exceed 20% of the total senior class. Schools are responsible for determining if any program at their school qualifies as a magnet program.

- V. The following table will be used for allocating grade points for all courses, except for special courses outlined in item number VII.

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Number of Points</u>
A	4
B	3
C	2
D	1
F	0
I/NC	0

- VI. Each senior high school will furnish both percentile rank in class and grade point average to colleges and universities with a clear explanation on all transcripts of the total number of students in the class, and the methods used in computing both percentile rank and grade point average.
- VII. ~~In computing the weighted GPA for the purposes of rank in class and postsecondary applications, bonus points will be added to the unweighted GPA for each Honors, Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, pre-International~~

~~Baccalaureate, or selected International Studies courses (Foreign Language Humanities for International Studies III and IV, Foreign Language and Literature for International Studies 7 and 8) in which a final grade of A, B, or C is earned by students who have attempted and earned the minimum credits required for ranking or more. The value of a bonus point is determined by dividing the minimum credits required for ranking into 1.0. Honors, Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, pre-International Baccalaureate, or selected International Studies courses (Foreign Language Humanities for International Studies III and IV, Foreign Language and Literature for International Studies 7 and 8) are those identified as such in Curriculum Bulletin I. Dual enrollment courses are those identified as Florida academic postsecondary courses. For each credit earned in an Honors, pre-International Baccalaureate or equivalent dual enrollment course in which a grade of A, B, or C has been awarded, the value derived from the above process will be added to the unweighted GPA. Computations for eligible students who have earned fewer than the minimum credits required for ranking will be completed according to procedures described below in this section.~~

~~For Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, selected International Studies courses (Foreign Language Humanities for International Studies III and IV, Foreign Language and Literature for International Studies 7 and 8) or equivalent dual enrollment courses for which a grade of A or B has been awarded, two times the value derived from the above process will be added to the unweighted GPA. For an Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or selected International Studies courses (Foreign Language Humanities for International Studies III and IV, Foreign Language and Literature for International Studies 7 and 8) for which a grade of C has been awarded, the bonus shall be equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the bonus awarded for an Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or selected International Studies courses (Foreign Language Humanities for International Studies III and IV, Foreign Language and Literature for International Studies 7 and 8) A or B. Honors, pre-International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, and selected International Studies courses (Foreign Language Humanities for International Studies III and IV, Foreign Language and Literature for International Studies 7 and 8) of a semester duration shall allow proportionate bonus points. Grade points awarded for courses transferred from schools outside Miami-Dade County Public Schools will be awarded at the same rate described herein.~~

~~The content of dual enrollment courses will be reviewed by a committee established by the Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education to determine whether they are equivalent to Honors or~~

~~Advanced Placement courses.~~

The computation of grade point average, which is explained in this section, shall not be used to qualify students for honor roll, National Honor Society, or any other activity for which weighted grade point averages are calculated by individual schools. Instead, the students in these circumstances will receive extra grade points for Honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, International Baccalaureate, pre-International Baccalaureate, and/or International Studies courses identified in Curriculum Bulletin I.

Add one grade point for grades A, B, or C to the table listed in item number V to each Honors, pre-International Baccalaureate, as or equivalent dual enrollment course identified in Curriculum Bulletin I. Add two grade points for grades A and B and one point for grade C to the table listed in item number V to each Advanced Placement, equivalent Dual Enrollment, International Baccalaureate, Advanced international certificate of Education (AICE), or International Studies course identified in Curriculum Bulletin I.

- ~~VIII. Students in grades 6, 7, or 8, who enroll in and complete an Honors or Advanced Placement course designated for senior high school credit, in the computation of GPA for rank in class, if the parent approves in writing the inclusion of that course, will have extra grade points added as in item VII. Such approval shall be given in September of the student's ninth grade year.~~
- ~~IX. VIII. During the time a student in grades 6, 7, or 8 is enrolled in a designated senior high school course, the student is considered for that class period (or periods) to be a senior high school student, as specified in the Student Pupil Progression Plan.~~
- ~~X. IX. Beginning in 1996-97, Students may not have academic grades and/or courses changed after a period of one year has elapsed since the final grade was given. This restriction is not applicable in the case of a technical error made by a staff member of Miami-Dade County Public Schools M-DCPS.~~
- ~~XI. Effective in 1997-98 and thereafter, lower grades in excess non-required courses may be eliminated in calculating the GPA for students who have not achieved the grade point average necessary for graduation and who have more than the number of credits required for graduation.~~
- ~~XII. X. Whenever this Board Rule is amended in a manner which will impact the grade point average and/or rank in class of currently enrolled students, at the Superintendent's discretion, a dual rank in class/hold harmless procedure may be implemented. With this~~

procedure, the grade point average will be computed using both the previous and the newly amended methods. Each method will generate an independent rank in class based upon the grade point average earned. This hold harmless procedure will permit the student to use the higher rank in class and grade point average of the two methods for scholarship and postsecondary applications.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2); 230.23(17) 1001.41(1) (2); 1001.42 (23); 1001.43(10) F.S.
Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.23005(6)(8); 232.245;
232.246;232.2463; 232.425; 240.1163—1001.43(6)(8); 1003.428; 1003.429; 1003.43;
1003.437; 1006.15; 1007.271; 1007.272; 1008.25 F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

New: 9-2-80

Amended: 12-10-80; 8-19-81; 10-6-82; 3-16-83; 8-24-83; 11-2-83; 6-25-86; 1-7-87; 628-89; 9-23-92; 9-22-93; 11-16-94; 6-7-95; 4-15-98; 3-17-99