

Grade and Credit Information

Courses Weighted for Class Rank

Hays CISD is currently reviewing all GPA and Class Rank policies and procedures.

Hays CISD uses a weighted grading system to arrive at the student’s grade point average (GPA) to be used in determining valedictorian, salutatorian, and class ranking for high school students. Student GPA’s are calculated on a weighted 4.0 scale. During the school year, class ranking will be made available to students enrolled in each high school during the junior and senior year at the beginning of the year and at mid-year. Sophomores will be ranked for the first time at mid-year of the sophomore year. Freshman class students are not ranked.

CLASS RANK AND CREDIT INFORMATION

The district shall use a weighted grading system to arrive at the grade point averages (GPA) to be used in determining valedictorian, salutatorian, and class ranking for high school students. Students shall have the following courses used in determining valedictorian, salutatorian, and class rank.

Tier I – Tier I courses are designed to prepare students to take Advanced Placement exams and follow the guidelines prescribed by the College Board. Students can earn college credit depending on the score of the AP exam and the receiving university. **Tier I courses carry a 6.0 weight.**

Tier II- Tier II courses include Pre-Advanced Placement, TEA identified and district identified advanced courses. The curriculum design and instruction present material at an accelerated rate and at a higher level than in grade level classes. In accordance with our University of Texas co-enrollment agreement, UT On Ramps Courses are on the Tier II scale and receive Pre-AP Credit. The college credit will be posted on the UT Transcript. The student can decide to count the grade on the UT Transcript or have posted a P or F. **Tier II courses carry a 5.0 weight.**

Tier II DC - Tier II DC (Dual Credit) courses include dual credit courses taken either on the high school campus or college campus and count for both high school and college credit. The curriculum in these courses meets the TEA identified standards and college standards, so the student is enrolled in both the high school course and the college course at the same time. Hays CISD has an agreement with Austin Community College for students starting in 9th grade and are college ready, can enroll in ACC classes. Tier II DC courses carry a **5.0 weight** for A, B, and C grades received from colleges. Hays CISD does not recognize nor post a D, F, or W grades. College grades come from Austin Community College in Alpha Form. *The grade conversion for the dual credit grades are: A= 95, B=85, C=75 (refer to page 3 of this section).

Tier III- Tier III courses include grade level TEKS courses. The curriculum design and instruction are for all students regardless of academic ability. **Tier III courses carry a 4.0 weight.**

Tier IV-Tier IV courses are developed locally for all students regardless of academic ability. **Tier IV courses carry a 3.0 weight**

Courses Weighted for Class Rank

Tier II	
English 1 Pre AP	English 2 Pre AP
Algebra I Pre-AP	Algebra 2 Pre-AP
Geometry Pre-AP	Precalculus Pre-AP
Calculus: Independent Study Math	Chemistry I Pre-AP
Biology I Pre-AP	Anatomy and Physiology
World Geography Pre-AP	French 3 Pre-AP
Spanish 3 Pre-AP	ASL 4
German 3 Pre-AP	UT On Ramps ELA
Advanced Computer Programming	UT On Ramps Pre-Calculus
UT On Ramps Statistics	PLTW – Engineering, Design, Development
UT On Ramps US History	

Tier II DC 5.0	
Credits earned through dual credit programs with colleges and universities with whom the district has an articulation agreements shall be used to calculate class rank as Tier II DC courses. As our district grows, we will add more Dual Credit Courses.	

ENGL-1301, 1302	Spanish SPAN 1411, 1412
Intro to Sociology SOCI 2301	Brit. Literature ENGL 2322
Intro. To Psychology PSYC 2301	BIOL 2304 & BIOL 2101 & BIOL 2305 and BIOL 2102
Intro to Computing COSC 1301	Strategies for Learning EDUC 1300
Intro.to Biol. BIOL. 1408	College Mathematics MATH 1332
Music Appreciation MUSC 1306	Economics ECON 2301
Humanities HUMA 1302	Intro.to Speech Comm. SPCH 1311
Environmental Systems ENVR 1301	US History HIST 1302

Tier I 6.0	
English 3 AP	English 4 AP
Calculus AB AP	Calculus BC AP
Statistics AP	Biology 2 AP
Chemistry 2 AP	Physics 2 AP: Algebra-Based
Physics 1 AP: Algebra-Based	Environmental Science AP
Physics 2C: Electricity & Magnetism	Physics 2C: Mechanics
Psychology AP	Human Geography AP
World History AP	US History AP
US Government AP	Economics AP
Comparative Government AP	Computer Science AP
Computer Science Principles AP	Music Theory AP
Art History AP	Studio Art: Drawing AP
Studio Art: 2 Dimensional Design AP	Studio Art: 3 Dimensional Design AP
Spanish 4 AP	Spanish 5 AP
French 4 AP	German 4 AP

Refer to the Dual Credit and Concurrent Enrollment Section of the HS Course Guide. Some Dual Credit courses are College Credit only and are not posted on the HS transcript nor computed into GPA and rank.

Courses taken for high school credit while in middle school will count in the student's high school cumulative grade point average (GPA) and recorded on the high school Academic Achievement Record (transcript).

All semester grades, except those awarded for band, choir, drill team, cheerleading, athletics, and student aide, shall be used to compute class ranking.

Class rank is based on the students' GPA using grades for each semester, except for the final senior rank. Rank for *new to district seniors* will be added through a comparative rank based on transfer grades, coursework and credits from the student's Academic Achievement Record.

Dual credit grades for the spring semester of the senior year are not posted and calculated in GPA until June after grades are released by ACC.

The final junior rank is distributed no later than the 3rd week in June. This rank is used for the purpose of college admissions during the fall semester of the senior year. The final junior class rank will be calculated and applied to transcripts for access through the Texas Records Exchange (TREx) prior to the July 1 application window of state universities.

Mid-year, class rank will be made available to seniors by the end of the 3rd week of the Spring semester. Junior and sophomore class rank will be made available to students no later than the 6th week of the Spring semester.

Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated for all students (9-12) at the end of every semester. The accompanying scale indicates the grade point value of the grades earned. No grade points are earned for semester grades of 69 or below.

GRADE	GRADE POINT SCALE				
	Tier IV	Tier III	Tier II	*Tier II DC	Tier I
100	3.0	4.0	5.0		6.0
99	2.9	3.9	4.9		5.9
98	2.8	3.8	4.8		5.8
97	2.7	3.7	4.7		5.7
96	2.6	3.6	4.6		5.6
95	2.5	3.5	4.5	A-5.0	5.5
94	2.4	3.4	4.4		5.4
93	2.3	3.3	4.3		5.3
92	2.2	3.2	4.2		5.2
91	2.1	3.1	4.1		5.1
90	2.0	3.0	4.0		5.0
89	1.9	2.9	3.9		4.9
88	1.8	2.8	3.8		4.8
87	1.7	2.7	3.7		4.7
86	1.6	2.6	3.6		4.6
85	1.5	2.5	3.5	B-4.0	4.5
84	1.4	2.4	3.4		4.4
83	1.3	2.3	3.3		4.3
82	1.2	2.2	3.2		4.2
81	1.1	2.1	3.1		4.1
80	1.0	2.0	3.0		4.0
79	.9	1.9	2.9		3.9
78	.8	1.8	2.8		3.8
77	.7	1.7	2.7		3.7
76	.6	1.6	2.6		3.6
75	.5	1.5	2.5	C-3.0	3.5
74	.4	1.4	2.4		3.4
73	.3	1.3	2.3		3.3
72	.2	1.2	2.2		3.2
71	.1	1.1	2.1		3.1
70	.1	1.0	2.0		3.0
69 and below receive no grade points					

Grade Level Classification

Students are classified according to the number of credits they have earned and their years in high school.

Required classification credits are listed below:

Freshman	Promotion from 8 th grade
Sophomore	6 to 11.5 credits
Junior	12 to 17.5 credits
Senior	18 plus credits

Students who entered 9th grade in the 2014-2015 school year and thereafter are expected to graduate on the Foundation High School Program with an Endorsement. Students can earn more than one Endorsement on their transcript, if there is a 4 yr. sequence of courses.

Full Time Student Eligibility

In order for students to be eligible as full time for attendance and UIL participation, all students in Hays CISD are expected to be on campus seven periods of the day, with the following exceptions:

- ☐ Students enrolled in ACC Dual Credit classes on Hays CISD campuses are expected to attend class every day during the designated class period. If they take a Dual Credit or Concurrent Enrollment course on an ACC campus, they can be released for one class period for each ACC class taken off campus. These classes must be scheduled during the first or last period of each day or in the evening. Counselors or administrators must approve these classes before a student can enroll in a Dual Credit or class.
 - 1 ACC class off campus = 1 release period
 - 2 ACC classes off campus = 2 release periods
 - No travel period is given
 - Students must be enrolled in at least 5 instructional periods during the school day (student aide does not count)

- Students enrolled in a CTE Career Prep Work program must be in attendance on campus no fewer than 5 instructional periods (student aide does not count) for full-time status.
- Students enrolled in a Category 1 off-campus PE waiver class may take six classes on campus to be eligible as a full time student. It is the student's responsibility to turn in verification of attendance from the Category 1 waiver coach/instructor to receive credit for the class.
- A zero hour class for credit counts as one of the 7 periods a student takes on campus.
- Students are not given an early release period or study hall period for Night school and Virtual school classes.
- Students are not allowed to sign up for more than one student aide period per semester.
- Credit recovery classes are not counted as instructional class periods as a part of the student schedule to be considered for eligibility as a full time student.

Timing Counts!

Dropping a Class Impacts UIL Eligibility

Students who drop a class after the first 4 weeks of the first 6 weeks period of the semester will remain ineligible for the last 3 weeks of the first 9 weeks grading period as if they had received a failing grade unless they receive an exception from the principal. Students also lose credit for the course they *add unless an exception is granted by the principal*. This course will count as an "I" (Incomplete) for the semester because time requirements cannot be met. No grade points will be attached to the course, so it will affect a student's GPA the same way an "F" affects it. Students who drop a course to move to the credit recovery lab will be ineligible for the first 3 weeks of the next 9 weeks.

This rule only affects a student when he/she drops a course and adds an entirely different course – for example, dropping Algebra 2 and adding Art. This does not affect a student when he/she simply changes levels of the same course – for example dropping from Pre-AP to regular.

Course Selection/Schedule Change Process

Master schedules are developed in the spring prior to the next school year. Student course selections during the spring indicate how many teachers and sections will be needed for a course.

Course Selection Process

Students select courses in the spring prior to the next school year by utilizing information learned in <http://www.careercruising.com> and after discussion with counselors, parents, and teachers. Students select their classes and enter them on TEAMS for the next school year. Careful, thoughtful decisions must be made during this process. Student course request verifications are provided in the spring and again in the summer so each student can confirm and finalize the appropriate choices have been selected and entered into the TEAMS program.

It is important that parents and students attend the informational meetings held during the spring course selection process.

Although students complete course requests online, counselors will also keep paper copies of course selection sheets on file. Students will be given a copy of their course selections in the spring so that they will have the opportunity to request a change before their schedule is finalized in the summer. These selections will be sent through the Course Verification process. A full staff of counselors is not on campus all summer, so it is best to make adjustments before school gets out.

Students develop their 4 year Personal Graduation Plan in eighth grade on <http://www.careercruising.com> with the assistance of their middle school and high school counselor. However, this is not the process for course selection. This must be done through TEAMS.

Both parents and students can access this website and discuss their choices and plans together. During the 9th grade, high school counselors will meet again with each student to talk about their 4 year Personal Graduation Plan.

Schedule Change Process

Teacher schedules and employment are based on student requests; therefore, few schedule changes are approved. Once students receive their course request verifications, they can turn in their request for changes to their counselor before the end of the school year. Students also have the opportunity to request a change during schedule pick up before school starts. Students must obtain a *Schedule Change Request Form* from the counselor, administrative offices or on the school website. The form must be filled in completely or the request will not be considered. The information includes input from the

student and parents.

Schedule changes will be considered during the first 2 weeks of class for the following reasons only:

- The student is a senior and is not scheduled into a course needed for graduation.
- The student has already earned credit for a course in which he/she is currently scheduled or the class is listed twice on the schedule.
- The student does not have the prerequisite for a class listed on the schedule.
- The student has been dismissed from a program where approval must be granted for placement.
- The student does not have a full schedule.
- The schedule has a data entry error.
- The student needs remedial coursework for state assessment graduation requirements.
- The student is not in the appropriate class as determined by an ARD committee decision.
- The student is enrolled in a program whose sponsor, director, or teacher has requested a change.
- There has been approval made by the Principal, Academic Dean or counselor for a schedule change.

Course level changes

Course level changes will be considered only at the end of the first 6 weeks for each course that offers a different level of the same course. To be considered for a transfer from a Pre-AP or AP course, the student must have made a sincere effort to succeed by attending tutorials, completing assignments and conferencing with the teacher. When a student moves from one level to another level, the actual grade earned in the previous class transfers with him/her to the new class, regardless of the level. The grade will be calculated into the proper grading period (9 weeks and semester). The student assumes all responsibility for the requirements in the course entered.

The parent must conference with the teacher before a course level change will be considered. If these conditions are met and all are in agreement, the student will be considered for a change. Space availability in the receiving course will be a consideration for a level change.

Changing a schedule could involve a change of more than one period, but every effort will be made to “save” the student’s schedule as approval may also depend on the number of other classes that may be affected by the level change.

Early Graduation

Students who wish to graduate in less than four years must meet with a counselor to file a written early graduation plan, and have parent and principal approval no later than the 5th week of the preceding spring semester or by the first two weeks of school. The *Early Graduation Plan* will be kept in the student's permanent folder.

In order to graduate early, the student must have:

- Completed an *Early Graduation Request Form* during the 5th week of the last 9 weeks of the preceding semester.
- Arranged a conference with the counselor and administrator. Early graduation must be approved.
- Accumulated the appropriate number of credits for graduating early.
- Earned credits for appropriate graduation plan.
- Passed all subject tests of STAAR (EOC).

In some extenuating circumstances in which a student needs to graduate early, the *Early Graduation Request* can be submitted for approval within the first 2 weeks of school.

Hays CISD wants to prepare students for success in any post-secondary option. Therefore, the student needs to understand certain courses cannot be taken in Night School for acceleration or completed in one semester for credit.

Year-long Advanced Placement courses cannot be completed in one semester. English IV is considered

a capstone course in high school and the gateway course to freshman level college courses. The literature and writing part of this course cannot be covered in Night School. The writing TEKS for this course enables a student to be prepared for writing college admissions and applications essays, and scholarship essays. If a student wants to graduate early, it is recommended that the student take both semesters of English IV either by enrolling in the course on campus during the school day, Dual Credit, correspondence through Texas Tech, or Credit by Exam to determine proficiency and credit for the course.

Class instruction can be the most effective method of presenting the curriculum. Therefore, courses taken online may not be appropriate for acceleration of a course, especially if this course is an EOC STAAR tested course.

There are certain restrictions for NCAA eligibility for all division athletes. No core remediation course is accepted for NCAA eligibility. Students are encouraged to check with their coach or counselor before enrolling in an online course. Most students considering NCAA eligibility should not consider Early Graduation.

Once a student graduates, he or she is no longer a student at the high school campus and is no longer entitled to any privileges of being a high school student, but entitled to those privileges of a graduate, such as transcript requests. However, if the student graduates in the first semester, they can participate in the end of the year graduation ceremonies.

Foreign Exchange Students Add Diversity; Culture to Hays CISD Classes

Because we believe our student body benefits from interaction with students from different cultures and backgrounds, it is the policy of Hays CISD to enroll foreign exchange students. Because Hays CISD is a fast-growing district we do have a waiver in which there are only a limited number of foreign exchange slots available at each high school.

These students will be treated as any other transfer student in that their transcripts will be evaluated and they will take courses appropriate to their previous academic preparation.

Foreign exchange students are enrolled as juniors. Because they are not seniors, they cannot participate in graduation ceremonies or senior activities.

To graduate from a high school in Texas, all state and local graduation requirements must be completed, including passing of all 5 STAAR (EOC) assessments.

Because these students are considered out-of-district transfers, they may be held to higher standards of behavior. The campus administration reserves the right to withdraw students if we believe it to be in the best interest of the student and other students should problems arise.

NCAA Clearinghouse for Athletics and College Athletic Scholarships

Athletes, your first step towards an Athletic Scholarship is registering with the NCAA Clearinghouse:

<http://www.eligibilitycenter.org>

Students should talk to their coaches or counselors for assistance in registering for NCAA Clearinghouse. If athletes want to participate in Division I or II athletics as a freshman in college, they must first register and be certified by the NCAA Initial- Eligibility Clearinghouse. If they don't register they will not be eligible to play or practice during their freshman year. Your counselor or coach can assist you in registering.

It is recommended that student athletes register with the NCAA clearinghouse at the start of their junior year in high school. There is no actual registration deadline, but they must be cleared by the

Clearinghouse before they can receive a scholarship or compete.

Athletes basically have 5 “college years” to complete 4 years of athletic eligibility. Students who do not meet the minimum academic requirements or fail to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse will almost certainly lose one of those years.

Initial Eligibility Requirements - The NCAA Clearinghouse will verify student eligibility. Courses must be registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse on their high school campus. Athletes should talk to the counselor or coach.

Core courses taken by correspondence, credit recovery, virtual school (EDGENUITY), and night school are not accepted by the NCAA. CBE for course credit are not accepted by the NCAA. Please check the NCAA website for what is accepted and what is not.

College Readiness Standards and the TSI (Texas Success Initiative)

Hays CISD wants to ensure our high school graduates are prepared for the rigor of a post-secondary education. The chart that follows demonstrates minimum assessment scores indicating the readiness of a student to progress to college level work. These standards are set by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to ensure our Texas high school graduates are ready to be successful in college level work (Texas Success Initiative) and do not have to enroll in developmental college classes. Enrolling in developmental college courses means it will take the student longer to finish his/her post-secondary education and cost more money. Developmental courses are taken in reading, math or writing and do not count towards college credit. These standard exemptions mean that the students can start on their college courses as soon as they enroll in college. If you have questions about the College Readiness Standards, please contact your school counselor.

Test	Math Exemption	Reading Exemption	Writing Exemption (**if the student takes the writing exam)
SAT	530	EBRW 480	Students do not have to use a composite for college admission. The writing portion is optional and depends on the university of choice
ACT	19 Math and Composite 23	19 English and Composite 23	19 English and 23 Composite (the essay is optional and depends on the university of choice)
Texas Success Initiative (if taken before the Fall 2017 enrollment)	350	351	5 or 4/363
Texas Success Initiative (if taken after the Fall of 2017 to enter Fall of 2019)	350	351	5 or 4/340

See your counselor for updates.