

TOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REGARDING: Weighted Grading and Class Rank

Number 6060
Instruction

Approved: 1/11/17

Many high schools across the country and in Connecticut have eliminated the practice of ranking their students. This is particularly true for private, small, and competitive high schools. In a 2007 report published by the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), more than half of all high schools no longer reported student rankings.¹ In a *Washington Post* article written in July 2013, it was reported college admissions officers have seen a drop-off in the number of applicants who come from schools that rank students. Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Lee Coffin at Tufts University in Boston reported that just 20 percent of the students who applied in 2015 provided a class rank.²

Ranking students creates a significant disadvantage for those students who narrowly miss out on certain class rank percentiles, specifically 10%, 20%, and 25%, which are often utilized in college admission decisions and/or merit-based scholarships. The numeric difference between the GPAs of the students who fall on the line of being in or outside the top 10% often differ by as little as a tenth or even a hundredth of a point. For instance, the difference between the grade point averages for the student within the top 10% and the student narrowly outside the top 10% for Tolland High School's graduating class of 2016, 2017, and 2018, is 0.1, 0.22, and 0.04, respectively.

In the most recent State of College Admissions Report published in 2014, it was reported that for 10 of the past 15 years, more than 70 percent of colleges reported year-to-year increases in the number of applications received.⁵ As the college admissions process becomes more competitive, excellent students outside the top 10% of their class in terms of class rank up to those in the middle are finding it much more difficult to gain admission into competitive colleges. As more and more schools abolish class rank, students from schools that have class rank are at a disadvantage when compared to students in schools who do not rank. Tolland students will benefit from the elimination of class.

For more information, and footnotes, please see the 5-31-2016 Class Rank Proposal and Recommendations document as well as the minutes and attachments of the 6-22-2016 and 7-27-2016 Board of Education meetings.

Determinations:

1. Class rank will no longer be reported by Tolland High School to colleges and universities for application purposes beginning with the Class of 2020 (incoming 9th graders) and thereafter.
2. Unweighted grade point average will continue to be reported on the Tolland High School transcript.
3. Unweighted and weighted grade point averages will only be provided to students and their parents.
4. A valedictorian and salutatorian will continue to be selected based on a student's cumulative weighted grade point average at the end of the first semester of their senior year.
5. School counselors will provide class rank to scholarship providers only upon request for those students in the top 10%.
6. Tolland High School will continue to investigate the issue of which students should speak on behalf of their class for ceremonial purposes.
7. Tolland High School will further investigate implementing a system of academic recognition, such as Latin honors (*Summa Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude*, and *Cum Laude*).