

## REVISED WEIGHTING POLICY

According to available data, about half of the school districts in our area apply some form of grade weighting. The supporting argument for weighting is that we want to encourage our most capable students to challenge the most difficult courses. As course difficulty increases, grades and consequently Grade Point Averages tend to decrease. Without a weighting system to offset this trend, our top students would tend to fall in class rankings against the students who opt to take less demanding courses. The weighted GPA will be used only for ranking purposes.

Ranking is a critical issue for college-bound students, particularly those top students applying to the most selective colleges. A student's rank may be considered not only in the admission decision, but even more so in the distribution of academic financial aid awards.

Our current ranking system serves its purpose of protecting the ranking of top students who opt to take the most difficult courses. However, it is so generous that it magnifies small differences among our top students in a way that may be inequitable.

### POLICY

According to existing policy, courses are weighted as follows:

Regents level courses:	1.1
College level/AP courses:	1.2

#### **Retroactive to September 2004:**

Courses designated as Honors courses will be weighted 1.15.

The Superintendent will determine how courses received via Luminet (Distance Learning) are weighted.

#### **Beginning with the 2005 cohort, the weighting system is revised as follows:**

1. College Level/AP courses: 1.10
2. Honors courses: 1.07
3. Carnegie units: 1.04
4. All other courses: 1.00

#### **Clarifications to class ranking policy, effective immediately:**

Weighted GPAs will be rounded to the nearest hundredth of a point.

First Reading: February 14, 2005

Second Reading & Adoption: February 28, 2005