



NORTHERN YORK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD PROPOSAL

Date: April 13, 2017

From: Jason Beals, Steve Lehman, Sylvia Murray

Re: Accelerated Courses and High School Credit

Board Committee: Curriculum/Policy

Background:

1. Currently the District provides the following courses at both the Middle School and High School:
 - Algebra I
 - Spanish I
 - French I
2. Students that complete Algebra I in 7th Grade have the option of either completing Honors Geometry at the High School, or completing online Geometry option through CAOLA.
3. These accelerated courses have been reflected on the High School transcript with the earned grade. No credit has been issued for successfully completing these courses.
4. These courses have not counted towards satisfying local graduation requirements for either 23.5 total credits or our local 3 credits required in the area of Mathematics, or 2-3 for World Language (recommended for post-secondary)
5. Since these courses have not been credit bearing, they have not been factored into cumulative weighted grade point average (CWGPA) or class rank calculations.

Issue:

*Should student be granted credit towards both graduation and content specific requirements?
Should the grade earned in these courses count toward CWGPA and class rank?*

1. It can be argued that Algebra I, Spanish I, and French I are high school equivalent courses as they are listed on the High School Course Selection Program of Studies.
2. Students taking the Honors Geometry course, physically take the course at Northern High School. A NHS teacher teaches this course, and high school students are enrolled in the same course.
3. Currently, only students in grades 9-12 are issued credit towards graduation, and subsequent CWGPA and class rank applies.
4. Completing these courses as a middle school student does not impact cumulative GPA or class rank calculations.

Findings:

1. Relating to Chapter 4.24(c) State Regulations state the following:

"(III) A school district, AVTS or charter school, including a cyber charter school, may allow a student who scores at the advanced level on a particular Keystone Exam prior to taking the course to be granted course credit for the course without having to complete the course."

Middle School students take Algebra I and participate in the same Keystone Exam. We currently are not granting credit for advanced level performance. Students are completed as part of the State mandated end of course assessment.

2. Policy 214 has the following language:

"The Board authorizes a system of class rank, by grade point average, for students in grades 9-12."

"Class rank shall be computed by the final grade in all subjects for which credit is awarded."

Administrative Guideline 214.1 states the following:

"The purpose of class rank is to inform students, parents, and other of each student's academic standing in relation to her/his peers. The following procedures shall be used when calculating class rank for student in grades 9-12."

Interpretation- This has broadly been interpreted that only those courses taken at our high school in grades 9-12 will be credit bearing, meet graduation requirements, and also be used towards CWGPA and Class Rank.

3. Dual Enrollment (Policy 124):

- College in the High School and Dual Enrollment courses taken outside the high school are eligible for credit toward high school graduation only. They are not included in the CWGPA or class rank calculations.

4. NCAA Clearinghouse States the following: (<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/core-courses>)

"If you take a high school class such as Algebra I or Spanish I before you start ninth grade, the class may count for your 16 core courses if it is on your high school's list of approved core courses and is shown on your high school transcript with a grade and a credit."

Since we are not granting credit, these courses (Middle School Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish 1 or French 1) do not count toward the 16 core courses necessary for NCAA DI/DII eligibility. We do have these courses listed on our high school's list of approved core courses.

5. Post-secondary Admissions:

- While not an exhaustive list, the following post-secondary admissions offices were contacted regarding minimum requirements for first-year students. This occurred either through phone conversation or information available on admission websites.
 - PennState, University of Pitt, PASSHE Schools (SRU, BU, MiU, MaU), West Virginia, York College, Messiah College, Dickinson College.
 - There is general agreement that 2-4 Mathematics and 2-3 Foreign Language units were required or recommended for admissions.
 - Individual Schools/Colleges within the University System also had additional requirements
 - There is not consensus on whether or not advanced coursework completed at the middle level would be recognized or applicable toward post-secondary admissions
 - Generally, it was recommended that applying students “go beyond” the minimum expectations listed for competitive applications.
 - It was also evident that most wanted to see at least 1 advanced Mathematics course beyond Algebra II (e.g. Trigonometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus)

6. Post-secondary Testing Requirements:

- All of the schools listed above used a testing component as one item for the admissions process, or required a placement exam, if not present
- SAT and/or ACT superscores (best overall) were utilized by most schools.
- AP, CLEP, IB tests were also considered by most schools as evidence of advanced coursework
- Concern has been raised over accelerated students taking applicable Mathematics courses (e.g. Algebra II) well in advanced of SAT/ACT testing dates. Most often recommended that a student participate in Junior Year (11th), and then have a subsequent attempt in Fall of Senior Year (12th).

Proposal:

Option #1: (Recommended)

- Honors Geometry ONLY– Issue credit towards both graduation and content specific requirement (3 credits). Permit to be used towards CWGPA and Class Rank.
- This would require a change/exception to Board Policy 214 – Class Rank

Option #2:

- Honors Geometry ONLY – Issue credit towards graduation, but not towards content specific requirement (3 credits). Not used in the CWGPA or Class Rank
- No policy change would be necessary

Option #3:

- Include all four courses: Algebra I, Spanish I, French I, Honors Geometry – Issue credit towards graduation, but not towards content specific requirement (2-3 credits). Not used towards CWGPA or Class Rank
- No policy change would be necessary

Option #4

- Include all four courses: Algebra I, Spanish I, French I, Honors Geometry – Issue credit towards both graduation and content specific requirement (3 credits). Permit to be used towards CWGPA and Class Rank.
- This would require a change/exception to Board Policy 214 – Class Rank

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
JB



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Class Rank
Number	214
Status	Active
Legal	1. Pol. 216 <u>24 P.S. 510</u>
Adopted	April 18, 2013

Purpose

The Board acknowledges the necessity for a system of computing grade point averages and class rank for secondary school students to inform students, parents/guardians and others of their relative academic placement among their peers.

Authority

The Board authorizes a system of class rank, by grade point average, for students in grades 9-12. All students shall be ranked together.

Class rank shall be computed by the final grade in all subjects for which credit is awarded.

Any two (2) or more students whose computed grade point averages are identical shall be given the same rank. The rank of the student who immediately follows a tied position will be determined by the number of students preceding and not by the rank of the proceeding person.

A student's grade point average and rank in class shall be entered on the student's record and transcripts and shall be subject to Board policy on release of student records.[1]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations for computing grade point averages and assigning class rank to implement this policy.

NORTHERN YORK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Administrative Guidelines

SECTION: Pupils

TITLE: Class Rank

EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2013

REVISED:

AG 214-1– Class Rank

The purpose of class rank is to inform students, parents, and others of each student's academic standing in relation to her/his peers. The following procedures **shall** be used when calculating class rank for students in grades 9 – 12.

Class Rank will be determined by each student's cumulative weighted grade point average (CWGPA). The CWGPA

1. will be computed at the end of each marking period
2. will be based only on credit-bearing courses that yield a numeric grade
3. will be rounded to the thousandths place value (3 decimal places)
4. will be used for final class rank calculations at the end of the third marking period of the graduating class's senior year

The weight of each course will be listed annually in the High School Program of Study.

Students must have been enrolled as a full-time Northern High School student for two years to be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian.

Each student's class rank will be listed on her/his final transcript.

In cases of transfers, the student's school counselor will work with the sending school, family, student, and administration in determining class rank.

If two or more students have an identical CWGPA they will hold the same class rank. Should this occur, the class rank of the student immediately following the tied students will be determined by the number of students before her/him, not the class rank immediately preceding her/him.