



Superintendent's Office

Dexter Community Schools
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May 14, 2015

Dear DHS Parents, Students, and Teachers,

I would like to provide an update to high school students, parents and teachers on the weighted grades.

This winter, we began reviewing our weighted grade policy. We analyzed students' GPA and class rank, considered the work of other high schools, reviewed published articles and current research, listened to the input of students and parents, and worked with the high school teachers. Throughout this process, we've learned a tremendous amount about the values of our staff, students, and parents regarding weighted grades.

As we have learned through this process, the timing of any changes must provide students and their parents with ample notification.

For the Class of 2015, students may choose to have a final transcript that includes only an unweighted grade point average and class rank. If a student would like this as the final transcript, please notify your child's counselor. For the Classes of 2015 and 2016, transcripts will display both weighted and unweighted grade point averages and ranks with weighting as currently structured. Any potential changes will be phased in for the Classes of 2017 and beyond.

Per Board Policy, weighted grade procedures are the responsibility of the Superintendent. As we complete the review of our current weighted grade procedures, the process will conclude after consultation with a committee consisting of the Executive Director of Instruction, the high school principal, a representative from the counseling staff, and representatives from the high school teaching staff. We will consider and provide opportunities for input from parents and students after consulting with educational professionals and reviewing current research. I have asked Mollie Sharrar, Executive Director of Instruction, to lead the remainder of the review process. In the case of any potential Board policy change related to class rank policy, Board approval would be required.

Our initial intent was to complete this review by the end of April in time for students to make scheduling changes for next year, if desired. However, one of the most important lessons we've learned is to not make a change without input from all stakeholders and that the timing of any changes must provide ample notice to students and parents. Therefore, we plan to continue this review process by taking the necessary time to complete all aspects of this policy review.

Thank you for both your input and your patience in this matter

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent