

Policy IKD Honor Rolls/Honor Graduates

Issued 7/22 ~~Issued 8/15~~

Purpose: To establish the board's vision for ~~recognition publication~~ of student ~~academic achievement via~~ honor rolls/honor graduates. The board wants to encourage and foster student achievement in accordance with elements of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate ~~the following in students:~~

- ~~development of intellectual ability~~
- ~~desirable traits of character~~
- ~~qualities of leadership~~
- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences
- Perseverance
- Work ethic

The board will support programs which recognize outstanding student achievement far in excess of minimum requirements in these areas. These programs may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- honor rolls
- honor societies
- special awards
- special recognition at honors programs
- commencement exercises

The board directs the certified staff to develop criteria and procedures for these recognition programs in honor of scholarship or distinguished service by students in any school activity. The criteria and procedures will make clear the relationship between the honor and the relevant goal or goals of the schools.

Academic Recognitions at Commencement Ceremonies ~~Honor Graduates~~

Rock Hill Schools will award students state Seals of Distinction as prescribed by the South Carolina Department of Education. Students earning one or more state Seals of Distinction will receive written recognition in the commencement program.

Students in a graduating class where rank is considered who graduate with outstanding academic performance will be recognized as honor graduates with one of the following accolades:

- *Valedictorian* - The student(s) with the highest adjusted grade point average (GPA) in the graduating class based on courses taken in grades nine through 12. ~~The adjusted GPA will be calculated using a procedure approved by the superintendent.~~

- *Salutatorian* - The student(s) with the second highest adjusted grade point average (GPA) in the graduating class based on courses taken in grades nine through 12. ~~The adjusted GPA will be calculated using a procedure approved by the superintendent.~~
- Students in the top ten percent of the graduating class will receive both written and verbal recognition of “with highest honors” during the commencement exercise. They will wear the honor cord as part of their graduation attire.

~~The adjusted GPA will be calculated using a procedure approved by the superintendent.~~

- ~~*With highest honors*—Those students with a regular GPA of 4.5 or above will receive both written and verbal recognition during the commencement exercise. They will also wear the honor cord as part of their graduation attire.~~
- ~~*With honors*—Those students with a regular GPA of at least 4.2 but less than 4.5 will receive written recognition in the commencement program. In addition, any student who has all A's (grades of 93 or above) since entering high school (ninth grade) will be eligible for honor graduate status.~~

~~In order to be recognized as an honor graduate, students must meet all requirements for the "Gold Seal" diploma.~~

Class speakers on the occasion of graduation will be the valedictorian and salutatorian, or the next highest ranked honor graduate using the same procedure should the valedictorian or salutatorian be unable to speak. Other student speakers at commencement shall be determined at the high school principal's discretion.

~~Should the school desire to have speakers in addition to the valedictorian and salutatorian or their appropriate substitute, speakers for the commencement exercise will be selected by a committee of teachers and students. The student members of this committee must meet the eligibility requirements of the speaker candidates by having a cumulative grade point ratio of 4.2 or above by the third nine week period.~~

School Letters

A school letter will be awarded for academic achievement to rising juniors with a GPA of 3.5. The GPA will be computed at the time junior status is acquired or any time thereafter when a student achieves a GPA of at least 3.5. Students who receive the academic letter will be awarded a bar for each successive year that the GPA standard 3.5 is maintained.

~~Election for early graduation will not disqualify a student.~~

~~Students who are entering the 10th grade with a GPA of 3.5 will be awarded a certificate and a specially designed award.~~

Adopted 8/27/90; Revised 3/23/92, 5/20/93, 6/28/93, 3/28/94, 5/27/02, 1/27/03, 1/22/07, 12/13/10,
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York 3/Rock Hill School District