

**Stafford Municipal School District
STAFFORD HIGH SCHOOL
Graduation Requirements**

Graduation Requirements

The State of Texas requires all students to complete the required number of credits and pass a state-wide exit-level examination. In order to graduate from Stafford High School with a Minimum Diploma, students must successfully complete a total of 26 units of required and elective credits. Students wishing to graduate with a TEA Recommended Diploma or Distinguished Diploma must also complete 26 credits. These credits will vary according to the diploma plans.

Seniors who fail TAKS but earn all of their credits to graduate may participate in commencement. To participate in commencement activities, seniors are required to pay \$100.00 class dues. Students not participating in commencement activities are required to pay a \$35.00 graduation fee.

Early Graduation Requirements

Students wishing to graduate early must apply for early graduation by completing the proper forms with their counselor. Application deadline is the last day of school of the Spring semester of the 10th grade year. To be eligible to graduate early, students will complete all coursework and exit-level testing required of the 9th grade class in which they begin high school. Effective for the 2001-02 school year, early graduates will be ranked with the graduating class with which they actually graduate and will be eligible for honors positions. However, students who meet the requirements of the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program under Education Code 56.203 at the end of summer school will not be ranked within a graduating class. Those who graduate one semester early will retain the rank earned at that time.

Honor Students

Grade average determinations using the weighted numerical system will be made at the end of the 5th six weeks. Appropriate awards will be given to graduating seniors in the following categories:

- Summa Cum Laude Top 2% of graduating class GPA
- Magna Cum Laude..... Following 3% of graduating class GPA
- Cum Laude..... Remaining 5% of graduating class GPA

To be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian honors, students must be initially and continuously enrolled as a full-time student during their senior year at Stafford High School. The student with the highest weighted average will be named valedictorian and the student with the second highest average will be named the salutatorian. In cases of ties, the valedictorian or salutatorian will be chosen according to the following criteria:

- The student with the most honor classes or advanced classes will be the valedictorian.
- When there is still a tie, the student with the highest average in all honor advanced classes will be the valedictorian.

Students are permitted to check grade averages in the presence of counselors at the end of the 5th six weeks.

Class Ranking for the Graduation Classes of 2005, 2006, and 2007

A weighted numerical system will be used for computing class rank. The actual grades on report cards and permanent records will not be changed. The following grades will not be used in computing rank:

- Grades earned in high school classes taken in 7th or 8th grades.
- Grades earned through correspondence classes, credit by examination, advanced placement exams, dual-credit classes, summer school, night school, distance learning courses, PLATO Credit Recovery, credit for courses not recognized by TEA, credit for which only a pass/fail grade was given, credit awarded in a non-accredited instructional setting. In addition, grades earned in physical education, athletics, JROTC, Dance 1-4, and any two- or three-credit career and technology work-based training courses, as well as any local credit course, shall not be included in computation.

Grade point values based on a five-point scale will be used only when required for scholarship applications or university admission.

Students who are ranked in the top 10% of their graduating class are eligible for a period of two school years following graduation for automatic admission into Texas general academic universities and colleges. Students and parents should see counselors for further information about how to apply and the deadline for application.

Class Ranking for the Graduation Class of 2008

A weighted system will be used for computing class rank. The actual grades on report cards and permanent records will not be changed. The same limitations and exclusions used for calculating GPA as noted above apply. A 4.0 scale will be used to calculate GPA's for all eligible classes except for Pre-AP, AP, and Dual/Concurrent credit classes as outlined on Pages 42 and 43 of the Student Handbook. A 5.0 scale will be used when computing GPA's for Pre-AP, AP, and Dual/Concurrent classes.