



AHISD Community Conversation: Class Rank Updates for 2024-2025

2023-2024 School Year

Alamo Heights ISD



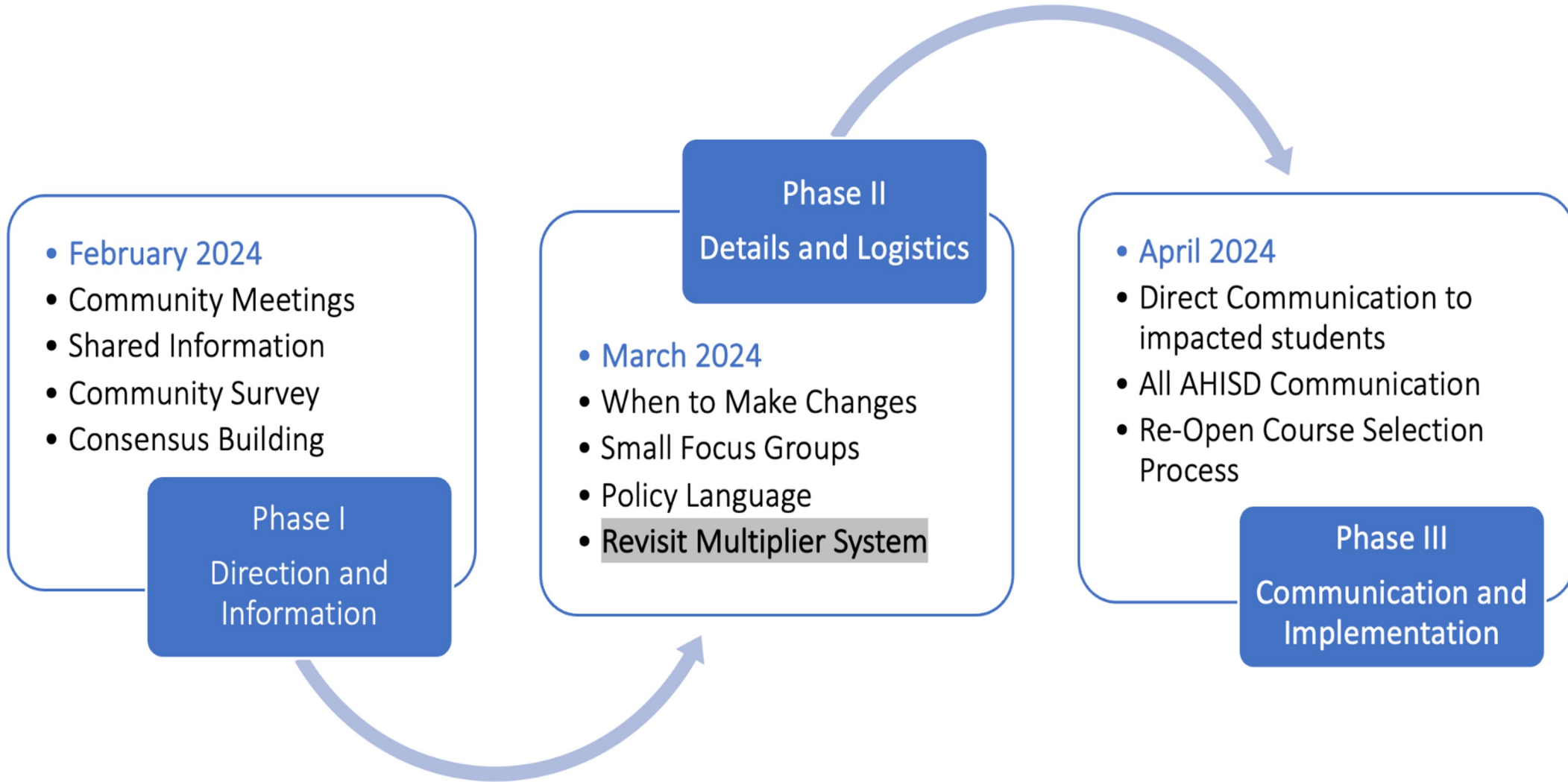
Why Now?

Changing Landscape

in College Admissions

Between test optional decisions, advancements in AI, and recent Supreme Court decisions, our AHISD students are facing a changing landscape in the college admissions process.

Additionally, there are significant variations on how high schools across Texas rank students and assign weights, or additional points, to advance academic courses, like Advanced Placement and dual credit.



Expected Timeline

What We Learned About Class Rank in Texas

Passed into law in 1997 and first starting in 1998, the Texas top 10% rule guarantees automatic admission to all public universities in the state for residents graduating from a recognized Texas high school in the top 10% of their class.

Since the rule was passed, only UT Austin has had to restrict the qualifying percentage down to 6% due to an overwhelming number of qualifying students accepting admission.

This law requires that all public high schools identify the class rank of at least the top 10% of a graduating class.



What We Learned About Class Rank Across ISDs

Many Texas school districts sharing similar characteristics to AHISD have eliminated rank (beyond the required top 10%) over the past 10 years. Most districts outside of Texas do not rank students.

Some anecdotal data that making changes helped acceptance rates. (No anecdotal data that it did not)

Each district sets its own policies for rank methodology, and this is vastly different from district to district.

Also, there are vast differences in how districts share ranking information and GPA distributions on the Campus Profile



What We Learned From Universities

Similar to all ISDs creating own local policies, all universities do the same. General patterns but difference nuances for each.

Landscaping is indeed changing, and will continue to change

- UT was test optional in December and is now requiring SAT or ACT testing

2013- 15% of colleges said class rank was of “considerable importance” in 2023 that dropped to 5%

Out of 50+ colleges we spoke to, most said eliminating class rank (beyond top 10%) would have no impact on AHISD college admissions.

- Texas A&M and Tech apply own rank based on application algorithm to all students who do not have a class rank.



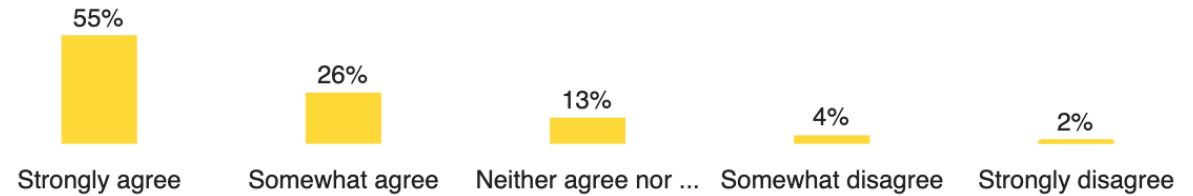
Type of University	# AH Students in last 2 years	% AH Students in last 2 years	Impact on Admission	Impact on Course Credit	
			Consideration of Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses during admission process	Award of Dual Credit course credit for college credit	Award of Advanced Placement (AP) exam scores for college credit
Texas Public	204	51%	AP and DC recognized in the same way	Accept core 42 DC hours	Accept 3+ *Some specific majors require higher AP scores or college placement test scores too
Texas Private	87	22%	AP and DC recognized in the same way *TCU prioritizes AP for 5 courses	Individual review of transcripts *Many accept up to 66 DC hours *Trinity and Rice only accept DC not used for HS graduation credit	Accept 4+ *Rice does not accept all AP exams
Out of State Public	67	17%	AP and DC recognized in the same way	Individual review of transcripts	Most Accept 3+ *Colorado School of Mines, NYU, Auburn 4+
Out of State Private	42	11%	AP and DC recognized in the same way	Individual review of transcripts *The more selective the university the more limited the transferability of DC. Many limit the number of DC credits or only accept DC not used for HS graduation credit	Accept 4+ *The more selective the university the more limited the transferability of AP credit. Some limit the exams accepted, or number of AP hours accepted.

What We Learned From Our AHISD Community

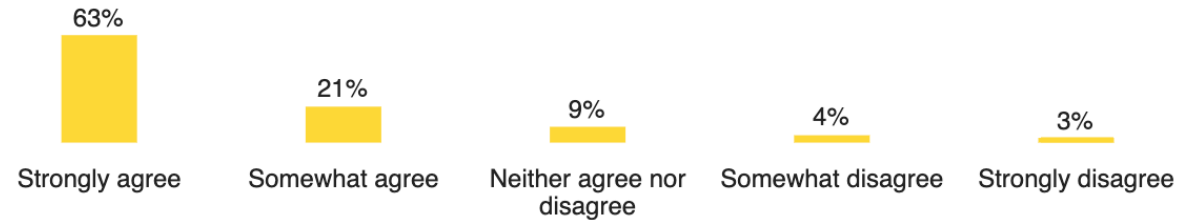
- Community feels informed and ready to make changes to class rank policies.
- Strong parent voice to consider making some changes to class rank policies for current students.

Desire for Change to Class Rank Policies

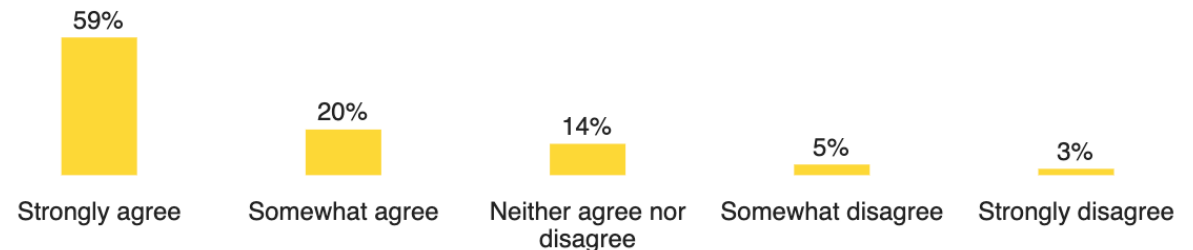
There are issues or challenges with the current AHISD class rank system.



It is important to re-evaluate and potentially change the current AHISD class rank policies.



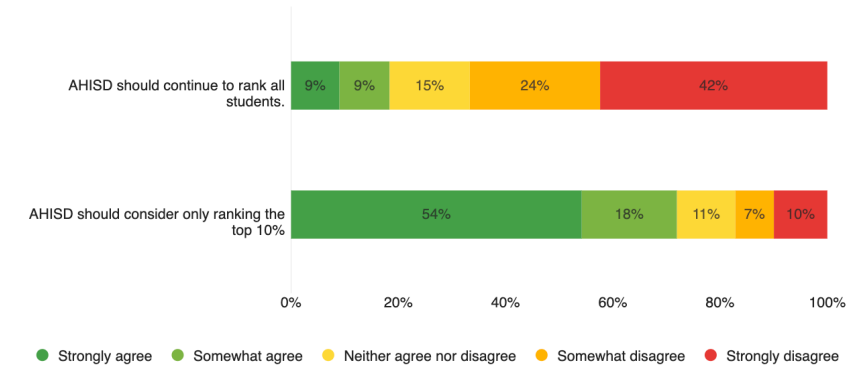
Changing the class rank policies would lead to significant benefits.



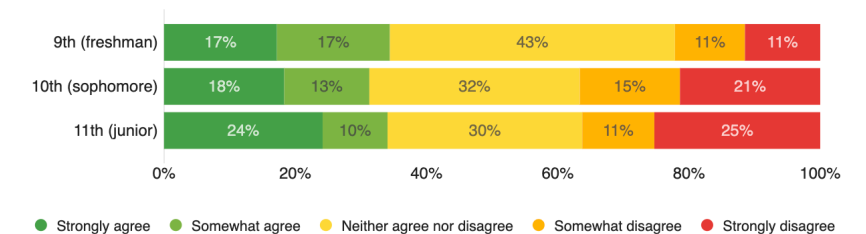
What We Learned From Our AHISD Community

- Very strong community sentiment to limit class ranking to only the top 10%, as required.
- Students are not sure how class ranking policies will impact them individually, especially freshman.
- Students and families with students in the top 10% want to maintain the status quo with ranking and are concerned about impact on overall rigor if class ranking is removed for all students.

ALL: Sentiment About Which Students Should AHISD Rank



9-11th Grade Students: AHISD should not make any changes and keep all class rank rules and policies the same for my graduating class.



Actions to Date- Communication

High School Faculty Meetings (3)

PTO General and Executive Board Meetings

Curated all resources on AH Website and created class rank email

High School Site Based Meetings (3)

Partners for the Profile (2)

District Education Advisory Council

High School Advisory Lesson

Community Survey

Public Board Policy Committee Meetings (16)

Superintendent Update to Community

Regular Board Meeting Public Presentations (4)

Student and Parent Focus Group (2)

Research on Weighted Grade Systems



Implication of Multiplier: Weighted GPAs are used to determine top 10% and automatic admission status.

Other School Districts: There is a wide variance in how districts weight courses in districts across Texas and the US.

Standardization of Transcript: Because of vast variance in how high schools weight courses, most colleges “scrub” transcripts to earned grades and use their own unique method to assign a GPA that is consistent across all applicants.

Research on Weighted Grade Systems

Historic Context: Prior to 2010, accelerated courses were recognized by giving extra points and not a multiplier. There were three categories of courses. When AHISD went to open enrollment for all accelerated courses, we moved to two course categories and a multiplier system.

Earned Grades: The actual grade a student earns as a result of their performance on class assignment is published on individual progress reports, report cards, and the transcript.

Application of Multiplier: The multiplier is not applied at the student level but rather at the course level. The High School Registrar takes the current list of multiplier courses and applies the 1.1 weight to each course as a part of the GPA methodology. The resulting weighted GPA for each student is printed on transcripts and used to determine AHHS class rank.



Changes to Class Rank

Beginning in 2024-2025 for Class of 2028 (Freshman)

- AHISD will only rank the top 10% of students, as required by law.
- Only defined core classes will be included in Rank in Class (RIC) methodology.
 - Exclude World Languages from RIC
 - Finalized RIC course list posted on Class Rank website, Academic Planning Guide, Grading Guidelines
- [These two changes will apply to incoming freshman only.](#)

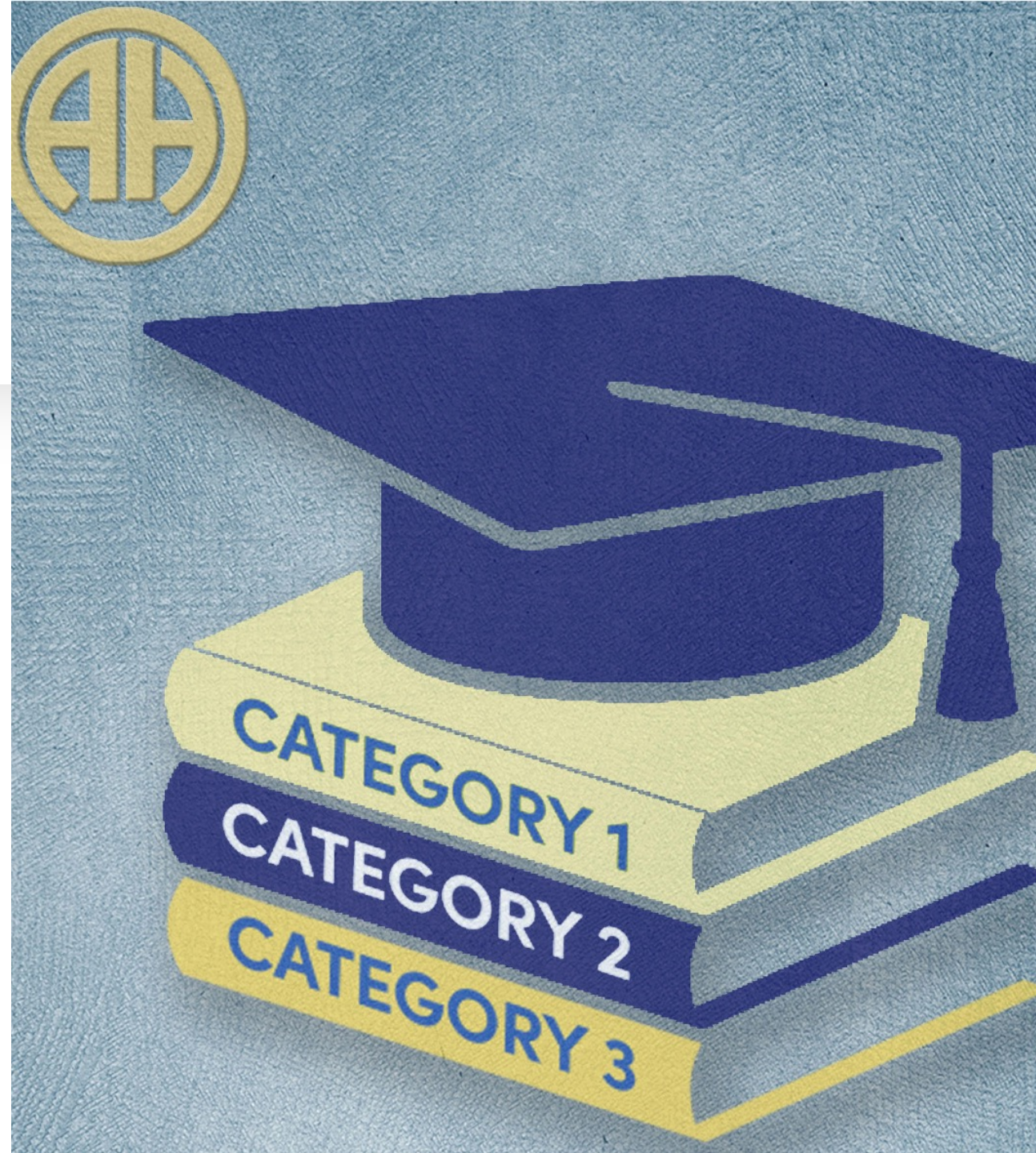
Changes for current 9-11th grade AHHS students

- Begin ranking only top 10% with class of 2025 (Current Juniors)
- There will be an end of year rank posted for all students in HAC by June 1
- Provide all classes with a GPA distribution sheet as transition guide
- Turn off rank in HAC (Home Access Center) June 15th
- Include info about timeline for rank decisions on Campus Profile so colleges are aware of the change to AHISD Policy.
- Top 10 students will be announced at graduation and not Senior Awards



AHISD Multiplier System

The AHISD Board of Trustees places all courses on the designated list of courses eligible for multiplier weights. This list is published in the AHHS Academic Planning Guide and the AHISD Grading Guidelines. Criteria for placement on the designated list include alignment with current courses on designated list, prerequisite requirements, complexity of course content, time and labor intensity, and established course rigor.





Changes to AHISD Weighted Grade System- Multiplier

There are not changes to course multipliers for the 2025-2027 Graduation Cohorts.

Beginning with the 2028 Graduation Cohort, AHISD will return to a multiplier system with 3 course categories (1.0, 1.1, 1.13).



AHISD Weighted Course List Graduation Cohorts of 2028 and Beyond

	Category I 1.00 Multiplier	Category II 1.10 Multiplier	Category III 1.13 Multiplier
English	*English I, II, III, IV *Modified English I, II, III, IV *Alternate English I, II, III, IV All English Electives	*Adv. English I *Adv. English II	*AP English III Language *AP English IV Literature *DC English III Freshman Comp I/II *DC English IV British Literature I/II
Math	*Algebra I, II, III *Algebraic Reasoning *Geometry *Statistics *Precalculus *Modified Algebra I, Alg. Reasoning, Geometry *Alternate Algebra, Geometry, Math Models	*Adv. Algebra I *Adv. Geometry *Adv. Algebra II *DC College Algebra: Algebra II (2025)	*AP Pre-Calculus *AP Calculus AB *AP Calculus BC *AP Statistics
Social Studies	*World Geography *World History *US History *US Government/ *Economics (1 semester) Sociology (1 semester) All Other Social Science Electives	*DC US History I/II (2026) *DC Texas Government (1 semester) (2027) *DC Federal Gov't (1 semester) (2027) *DC Macroeconomics (1 semester) (2027) DC Psychology (1 semester) (2026) DC Intro to Sociology (1 semester) (2026)	*AP Human Geography *AP World History *AP U.S. History *AP U.S. Government *AP Macroeconomics *AP Microeconomics (Inactive) *AP European History AP Psychology (1 semester)
Science	*Biology I *Chemistry *Physics *Environmental Systems *Food Science *Forensic Science *Astronomy *Anatomy and Physiology *Alternate Biology All Science Electives	*Adv. Biology I Advanced *Adv. Chemistry Advanced *Adv. Physics Advanced *Adv. Physics I/II: UT OnRamps *DC College Biology for Non-Science Majors I/II (2027)	*AP Biology *AP Chemistry *AP Physics C: Electricity *AP Physics: Mechanical *AP Environmental Science
World Languages	Spanish I, II, III, IV, V, VI French I, II, III, IV Latin I, II, III, IV All World Languages Electives	Adv. Spanish I, II, III Adv. Latin I, II, III Advanced Adv. French I, II, III Advanced	AP Spanish Language and Culture AP Spanish Literature and Culture AP Latin IV AP French Language and Culture DC Spanish
Fine Arts	DC Art Appreciation (2025) All Fine Arts Electives		AP Music Theory AP 3-D Art and Design AP 2-D Art & Design AP Drawing AP Art History AP Art History (Inactive)
Career and Technical Education	DC College Transition (1 semester) DC Prof. Communication (1 semester) DC Principles of Marketing (Incubator) (2026) All Career and Technical Electives	DC Teach Program Level III DC/Adv. Rocketry Level III (2026) DC/Adv. Business Mgmt. (Accelerator) (2027)	AP Comp. Science Principles AP Computer Science A DC Teach Program Level IV: Practicum DC/Adv. Rocketry Level IV: Engineering I (2027)

* Denotes courses included in Rank in Class GPA used to calculate top 10% of the graduation cohort and eligibility for automatic admission to Texas public universities.

Dates in parenthesis are the proposed year the course will first be offered at AHHS in the fall of the year listed.



AHISD Weighted Course List Graduation Cohorts of 2025, 2026 and 2027

	Category I 1.00 Multiplier	Category II 1.10 Multiplier
English	English I, II, III, IV Modified English I, II, III, IV Alternate English I, II, III, IV All English Electives	AP English III Language AP English IV Literature DC English III Freshman Comp I/II DC English IV British Literature I/II Adv. English I, II
Math	Algebra I, II, III Algebraic Reasoning Geometry Statistics Precalculus Modified Algebra I, Alg. Reasoning, Geometry Alternate Algebra, Geometry, Math Models	AP Pre-Calculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics Adv. Algebra I, II Adv. Geometry
Social Studies	World Geography World History US History US Government/ Economics (1 semester) Sociology (1 semester) All Other Social Science Electives	AP Human Geography AP World History AP U.S. History AP U.S. Government AP Macroeconomics AP Microeconomics (Inactive) AP European History AP Psychology (1 semester)
Science	Biology Chemistry Physics Environmental Systems Food Science Forensic Science Astronomy Anatomy and Physiology Alternate Biology All Science Electives	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics C: Electricity AP Physics: Mechanical AP Environmental Science
World Languages	Spanish I, II, III, IV, V, VI French I, II, III, IV Latin I, II, III, IV All World Languages Electives	AP Spanish Language and Culture AP Spanish Literature and Culture AP Latin IV AP French Language and Culture DC Spanish
Fine Arts	All Other Fine Arts Electives	AP Music Theory AP 3-D Art and Design AP 2-D Art & Design AP Drawing AP Art History AP Art History (Inactive)
Career and Technical Education	All Other Career and Technical Electives	AP Comp. Science Principles AP Computer Science A

For More Information

Class Rank Website - AHHS Students & Parents Tab

April 18th at 9:00 AM Principal and Parents Coffee

April 29th at 5:30- 8th Grade ECHS/PTECH meeting

May 6th at 4:15 PM HS Site Based Meeting

Contact your child's counselor for questions about the impact for your child's graduation plan.

