Dear Parent/Guardian,

In 2013, the 83rd Texas Legislature established the new Foundation High School Program as the default graduation program for all students entering high school beginning in 2014-2015. The State Board of Education adopted rules related to the new Foundation High School Program in January 2014.

To ensure implementation HISD has adopted rules to expand the State’s policy. Beginning freshman year of high school in the 2019-2020 academic year, all students in grades 9-12 will receive a class rank based on their grade point average (GPA) only including semester averages taken and completed in grades 9 through 12 for credit, except for some special education courses that may not be used in calculating class rank.

However, as of the 2017-2018 school year, the cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) shall only include semester averages of courses taken and completed in grades 9-12, high school credit courses taken in middle school will no longer be used when calculating a student’s GPA and class rank.

Effective for incoming grade 9 and grade 10 students as of the 2019–2020 school year, to be ranked within the top 15 percent (15%), a student must be enrolled in the school from which he or she is graduating from the first day of the junior academic year.

To be eligible for the valedictorian or salutatorian honors or the Highest Ranking Senior Certificate beginning in the 2016–2017 academic year at a particular school, a student must have been enrolled in the school from the first day of the junior academic school year per HISD Board Policy, EIC (Local), effective as of August 11, 2017. All incoming juniors are required to meet the school guidelines requirement to qualify for valedictorian or salutatorian honors.

In summary, to be eligible for such recognition, a student must:

- Have been enrolled in the same District high school from which the student is graduating from the first day of school in their junior academic year;
- Be scheduled to graduate in May or June at the end of his/her regular academic year;
- Graduate on the Distinguished Level of Achievement Program.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Registrar at 713-556-3878 or cJones4@houstonisd.org.

Sincerely,

Chandra Jones, Registrar
Westbury High School