

MEMORANDUM

May 17, 2023

TO: Sonya Monreal
Executive Director, Multilingual Programs

FROM: Allison Matney, Ed.D.
Executive Officer, Research and Accountability

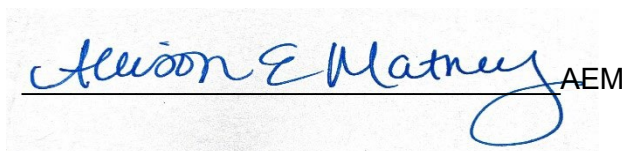
SUBJECT: **2023 EMERGENT BILINGUAL VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS**

Each spring, the Houston Independent School District (HISD) honors the valedictorians and salutatorians at each of its high schools. The valedictorian is a student who has earned the highest grade point average in his or her graduating class, and the salutatorian has the second highest grade point average. As part of its efforts to analyze the effectiveness of the district's programs for Emergent Bilinguals (EBs), the Research and Accountability Department identifies how many of these honorees had previously been in a bilingual or English as a Second Language (ESL) program (or are currently classified as an EB). The attached report summarizes findings concerning the EB history of the valedictorians and salutatorians from the class of 2023.

Key findings include:

- High schools had a total of 51 valedictorians and 55 salutatorians in the senior class of 2023.
- Of these, 40.6 percent had been EB at some point during their enrollment in HISD. In comparison, the overall percentage of seniors in the district who had been EB at some point was 42.9 percent.
- Both of these values are in line with data from previous years, which show that since 2007, the percentage of valedictorians/salutatorians who have ever been EB is nearly the same as the overall percentage of seniors who have ever been EB (42.5% versus 42.8%).
- Thirty of the valedictorians/salutatorians from the class of 2023 had started in a bilingual program, and thirteen had started in an ESL program.
- A total of nine valedictorians/salutatorians from the class of 2023 had been classified as an immigrant student at some point.

Further distribution of this report is at your discretion. Should you have any further questions, please contact me at 713-556-6700.



Attachment

cc: Millard House II
Richard Cruz, Ed.D
Shawn Bird, Ed.D

Khechara Bradford, Ed.D
Geovanny Ponce, Ed.D

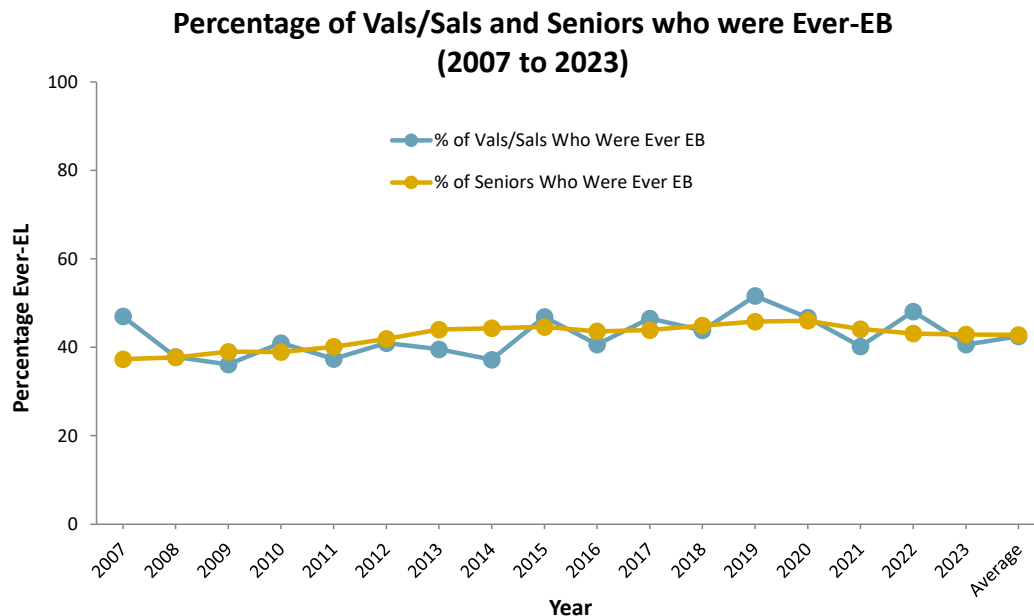
FAST FACTS EMERGENT BILINGUAL VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS CLASS OF 2023

Background Data Class of 2023

This brief report analyzes data concerning valedictorians and salutatorians from the class of 2023 and their Emergent Bilingual (EB) status.

- High schools in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) had a total of 51 valedictorians and 55 salutatorians in the senior class of 2023.
- Of these, 40.6% had been EB at some point during their enrollment at HISD (history covering the last 16 school years).
- In comparison, the overall percentage of seniors in the district who had been EB at some point was 42.9%.
- Both of these values are in line with data from previous years (see **Figure 1** below). Since 2007, the percentage of valedictorians/salutatorians who have ever been EB is nearly the same as the overall percentage of seniors who have ever been EB (42.5% versus 42.8%).

Figure 1. Percentage of valedictorians/salutatorians and district seniors who have ever been EB, class of 2007 to class of 2023



Valedictorians: Original EB Program

- **Table 1** (p. 2) shows summary data for valedictorians from the graduating classes of 2001 through 2023.
- In 2023, 39% of valedictorians (20 students) began enrollment as ELs (history covering 16 school years).
- Sixteen of the EB valedictorians began enrollment in a bilingual program, and four started in an ESL program.
- Three of the EB valedictorians had been coded as immigrant at some point in the previous 16 years (Public Education Information Management System records).

Table 1. District valedictorians who started as EB students (class of 2001 to class of 2023)

YEAR	VALEDICTORIANS STARTED IN BILINGUAL PRGM	VALEDICTORIANS STARTED IN ESL PRGM	EX IMMIGRANTS	TOTAL # OF EX EB
2001	10	3	6	13
2002	6	4	5	10
2003	7	6	9	13
2004	9	4	4	13
2005	9	2	2	11
2006	6	3	4	9
2007	9	6	8	15
2008	10	3	6	13
2009	8	2	5	10
2010	13	4	6	17
2011	7	8	7	15
2012	8	6	7	14
2013	13	7	3	20
2014	9	5	7	14
2015	20	5	10	25
2016	12	9	6	21
2017	14	10	9	24
2018	19	3	7	22
2019	15	7	7	23
2020	15	6	4	21
2021	14	3	0	19
2022	20	7	7	28
2023	16	4	3	20

- Comparable data for salutatorians is shown in **Table 2**. In 2023, 42% of salutatorians (23 students) began enrollment as EBs.
- For the class of 2023, fourteen of the EB salutatorians began enrollment in a bilingual program and nine started in an ESL program. Six EB salutatorians had been immigrant students at some point.

Table 2. District salutatorians who started as EB students (class of 2004 to class of 2023)

YEAR	SALUTATORIANS STARTED IN BILINGUAL PRGM	SALUTATORIANS STARTED IN ESL PRGM	EX IMMIGRANTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF EX EB
2004	7	4	5	10
2005	11	2	7	13
2006	7	2	2	9
2007	9	7	7	16
2008	12	3	3	15
2009	6	6	2	12
2010	11	4	1	15
2011	10	5	8	15
2012	14	6	7	20
2013	10	4	5	14
2014	8	10	8	18
2015	14	6	6	20
2016	16	2	6	18
2017	12	11	8	23
2018	12	5	5	20
2019	21	4	7	26
2020	14	6	6	21
2021	15	4	6	20
2022	15	7	7	22
2023	14	9	6	23