

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPSDate: **May 8, 2007**Governor's Honors Program

Every high school is expected to actively participate in and actively support the Governor's Honors Program.

Honors Program

All schools will conduct an annual honors day program for the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievement.

Academic Letters

Academic letters are to be awarded annually based upon students' previous year's grades. Letters are to be awarded to students in grades 9-12 who have demonstrated satisfactory behavior and have earned an annual grade of not less than 90 in each subject required for graduation. High school courses taken in middle school will not be used in the academic letter criteria.

High School Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Honor Graduates

**Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Honor Graduates** from Columbia County schools are to be selected at the conclusion of the third nine-week grading period of the senior year. **Grades earned during this partial semester will count half the weight of semester grades.** (Grades for students participating in the post-secondary options program (ACCEL) will be calculated as outlined in Policy IDCH.)

For the purpose of selecting honor graduates, excluding valedictorian and salutatorian, courses transferred into Columbia County schools from non-accredited schools and from approved home **study programs** shall be validated by comprehensive course examinations (**Policy JBC(2)**). **The passing score earned on the comprehensive course examination will be posted to the student's official transcript and used to calculate the student's grade point average and eligibility for honors recognition.**

For the graduating classes of 2005 through 2008, the four-year academic average will be calculated using the highest overall quality point average. All graduates maintaining an actual four-year cumulative quality point average of 4.0 or above will be declared Honor Graduates (Procedure IHAB).

Beginning with the Class of 2009, **the quality point average will no longer be utilized, and** all graduates maintaining a four-year cumulative average of 90 or above will be declared Honor Graduates.

### Valedictorian/Salutatorian Requirements and Calculations

- 1) A student must have taken a minimum of three (3) Advanced Placement courses. If three Advanced Placement courses are not available during a student's tenure at a high school, the principal may reduce the three course-minimum to the number that is offered at that school. **(New requirement for the Class of 2009 and beyond)**
- 2) **The student** must have been enrolled in a Columbia County school for two complete years of the four high school years.
- 3) The student must have received numerical grades for the four years of study from accredited schools. **Students with transfer grades from home study programs or schools lacking full accreditation are not considered for valedictorian or salutatorian.**
- 4) The student with the highest overall four-year cumulative numerical average will be named valedictorian.
- 5) The student with the second highest overall four-year cumulative average will be named salutatorian.
- 6) If two or more students have the identical highest four-year cumulative numerical average calculated to four decimal places, the students will be named co-valedictorians and no salutatorian will be named for that year.
- 7) If there are scholarships for the valedictorian, the co-valedictorians meeting the scholarship criteria will divide the scholarship funding, if this is allowed.
- 8) If two or more students have the identical second highest four year cumulative numerical average calculated to four decimal places, the students will be named co-salutatorians.
- 9) If there are scholarships for the salutatorian, the co-salutatorians meeting the scholarship criteria will divide the scholarship funding, if this is allowed.

REFERENCE: POLICY AND PROCEDURES JBC(2) (formerly JBCCB),  
IDCH, IHAB

PROCEDURE: NO

ADOPTED: 01/12/88

REVISED: 06/08/99, 8/10/99, 11/13/01, 9/10/02, 7/27/04, 1/10/06

Columbia County Board of Education