

## **6.22 *Graduation Requirements***

All students entering the 9th grade are required to complete course requirements for graduation as specified by the Alabama State Board of Education and the Gulf Shores Board of Education. A document that describes requirements for all diplomas and certificates awarded by the Gulf Shores Board of Education will be disseminated to students and parents.

Documents describing graduation requirements for students shall describe types of diplomas and endorsements by graduating class/year/cohort, total credits and assessments required, core course requirements, elective course offerings, and the process for earning weighted credit when appropriate. Additionally, such publications shall describe courses and/or procedures by which students may earn credits toward graduation prior to grade 9 and procedures for the validation and/or acceptance of credits for students transferring into the Gulf Shores School System.

[Reference(s): Code of Alabama 16-11-9, 16-26-1, Alabama Administrative Code §290-030-010-.06(11) (K)1]

## **6.23 *Participation in Graduation Ceremonies***

The Gulf Shores Board of Education authorizes local high school principals and appropriate staff members to design and implement graduation ceremony exercises for their respective schools. In all cases, eligibility criteria for participation in graduation exercises (marching) shall encompass the following provisions:

- A. Senior regular education and special education students who earn any Alabama high school diploma are eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony (march).
- B. Special education students who have not met the requirements for a diploma but have met the requirements of their IEPs shall be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony and will be awarded the Graduation Certificate.
- C. Students who meet all requirements after their designated graduation date may participate in the next graduation ceremony/exercise.

[Reference(s): Code of Alabama 16-11-9]

## **6.24 *Weighting of Grades, Class Rankings and Honor Graduates***

**6.24.1 Weighting of Grades: Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, grades will be weighted as follows:**

- a. **Advanced Placement classes will receive a weight of 1.0 quality points. Students must take the AP exam to receive weighted credit.**

- b. Dual enrollment classes will receive a weight of 0.5 quality points.
- c. Pre-AP and Honors classes will receive a weight of 0.5 quality points.

6.24.2 Ranking and Recognition of Students: Eligibility for academic honors will be determined by calculating the cumulative weighted average of all final course grades posted on the high school transcript. Students who earn a D or F in any high school course will not be eligible to receive academic honors. The academic honors designations shall be awarded as follows:

- a. Summa Cum Laude (with highest honors) 4.00 and higher (4.2 or higher beginning with the class of 2023)
- b. Magna Cum Laude (with high honors) 3.75-3.9999 (4.0-4.1999 beginning with the class of 2023)
- c. Cum Laude (with honors) 3.50-3.7499 (3.8-3.9999 beginning with the class of 2023)

A student's final cumulative weighted grade point average calculated to at least the fourth decimal place, including grades earned for repeated courses, will be used to determine class rank.

The top ten percent (10%) of students based on weighted GPA who have earned the College and Career Preparatory Endorsement or the College and Career Preparatory with Honors Endorsement will be recognized at graduation.

[References: Code of Alabama 16-11-9]