

Graduation with Honors, State Honors, and State Distinction – Policy & Rule

The Background:

When the High School Policy was adopted in 2008, new language was included that redefined graduation with honors and added distinction. Students who meet all ACT benchmarks would graduate with honors and students who attained a 3.0 GPA and accomplish one of a variety of achievements would graduate with distinction.

Several school systems have inquired about developing their locally devised recognition program. This proposed policy change reinstates the previous language which would permit a LEA to develop its own student recognition program and clarifies that students who meet all ACT benchmarks would graduate with state honors and students who attained a 3.0 GPA and accomplish one of a variety of achievements would graduate with state distinction.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends adoption of this item on final reading.

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Amend policy 2.103 by deleting sections 2.e and 2.f in their entirety and inserting the following language:

e. Graduation with Honors, State Honors, and State Distinction

1. School systems may design student recognition programs that allow students to graduate with honors if they have met the graduation requirements and have obtained an overall grade point average of at least a 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale. School systems may set a higher GPA at their discretion. School systems may specify additional requirements, such as requiring students to demonstrate performance of distinction in one (1) or more areas.
2. Students who score at or above all the subject area readiness benchmarks on the ACT or equivalent score on the SAT will graduate with state honors.

Each local school board shall develop a policy prescribing how students graduating with “state honors” will be noted and recognized.

3. Students will be recognized as graduating with “state distinction” by attaining a B or better average and completing one of the following:
 - (i) earn a nationally recognized industry certification
 - (ii) participate in at least one (1) of the Governor’s Schools
 - (iii) participate in one (1) of the state’s ALL State musical organizations
 - (iv) be selected as a National Merit Finalist or Semi-Finalist
 - (v) attain a score of thirty one (31) or higher composite score on the ACT
 - (vi) attain a score of three (3) or higher on at least two advanced placement exams
 - (vii) successfully complete the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
 - (viii) earn twelve (12) or more semester hours of transcribed postsecondary credit

Each local school board shall develop a policy prescribing how students graduating with “state distinction” will be noted and recognized.

Amend rule 0620-01-03-.06 (1) (c) by deleting the section in its entirety and inserting the following language:

(c) Graduation with Honors, State Honors, and State Distinction

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