



Weighted Grades: High School

December 2024: DCSD Board of Education Update



Background

Student Advisory Group recommendation to the Board of Education in Fall 2023 was to look at weighting Honors courses in DCSD.

- SAG recommended 4.5 scale for honors courses
- “The hope is to encourage students to take a more rigorous course load and push more students to eventually take AP classes”

Process

- **September**: HS/Alt Ed Principal level meeting.
 - [Current Policy \(IKF-R-4\)](#)
 - [DRAFT Policy](#) review
 - [Possible Course Universe \(evolved over time\)](#)
- **October**: [Presentations](#) via Leadership Teams at all nine High Schools and Legacy Campus. Survey data is representative of all high schools. [Staff Survey Results](#)
- **November** HS/Alt Ed Principals finalize their [FEEDBACK](#); presentation to School Leadership and Cabinet. Presented to and surveyed SAG [Student Survey Results](#)
- **December**: Present to Board of Education

Weighted Grades in Other Districts Summary



District	Weighted Grade Practice	Weighted Courses Information	Weight Amount
Littleton (3 Schools)	College courses taken by students DO NOT count as “weighted grades” unless they exceed Advanced Placement Standards. Pre-approval is determined by the student’s counselor prior to course enrollment.	AP/IB Courses Weighted Select CE courses weighted Honors courses at Littleton HS weighted Honors courses not weighted at Arapahoe/Heritage HS’s	5.0 scale
Cherry Creek (3 schools)	AP, IB and CE* (*selected CE courses at individual schools)	Selected Honors courses are weighted. (English, Math, Science, Social Studies and World languages)	5.0 scale
Jeffco (4 schools)	Advanced Placement (AP) classes as long as the AP course is completed and the AP exam is taken in May. Concurrent enrollment courses offered in Jeffco schools that are part of institutional extended studies programs (e.g. CU Succeeds). Concurrent enrollment in courses that meet or exceed the level of AP or IB courses with prior approval of the principal	Honors courses offered in Jeffco can be designated “honors” in content areas that offer AP or IB.	5.0 scale

Weighted Grades in Other Districts Summary (Cont.)



District	Weighted Grade Practice	Weighted Courses Information	Weight Amount
Denver (3 schools)	AP, IB, Honors, and CE Courses	No criteria for Honors courses.	5.2 scale
Boulder (3 schools)	AP, IB, Honors and CE*	“Advanced” courses (Math, Science, World Languages Level 2 and above). Select CE courses at individual schools	5.0 scale
Adams 12 (3 schools)	Weighted grades will be assigned to courses with the International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced Placement (AP) designation, or those that are otherwise approved by the district to be weighted.	Honors courses not weighted.	5.0 scale

Weighted Grades in Other Districts Summary (Cont.)



District	Weighted Grade Practice	Weighted Courses Information	Weight Amount
Aurora (District)	<p><u>District Policy IKC/IKD/IKAF-R</u> ...opportunity to earn weighted grades. Generally, courses designated as International Baccalaureate, advanced placement, and honors will be so designated. However, courses in all content areas may also be considered. Additionally, postsecondary courses that are college level typically carry a weighted grade.</p>		5.0 scale 4.5 for Honors
Lewis Palmer (2 schools)	<p>“AP courses may be weighted. In order for the “weight” to be applied to the grade, students must complete the entire course AND must take the AP exam or submit the required portfolio. Only grades of “A,” “B,” and “C” will be weighted.”</p> <p>“Honors Courses are NOT weighted, although colleges still consider them advanced academics. For transfer students, previously taken Honors classes will not be weighted.”</p>	Honors courses not weighted.	5.0 scale

Summary

22 schools/districts were reviewed regarding their practice on weighted grades (AP, IB, Honors and CTE/Concurrent Enrollment/Dual enrollment courses). Sources include phone calls to leaders, School Course guide, School Profile and District policies

AP and IB Courses

- **All 22 of the schools/districts weight AP and IB courses.**
- **All reviewed use a 5.0 scale (except for DPS which uses a 5.2 scale)**

Honors, Advanced, Pre IB, Pre AP

- **15 schools/districts weight Honors (5.0 scale, DPS 5.2 scale, APS 4.5 scale)**
- **7 schools do not weight Honors**

Concurrent Enrollment / Dual Enrollment / CTE

- **17 schools/Districts weight on a 5.0 scale (DPS 5.2 scale), using varying ways to identify courses**
- **5 have no record of how they handle these courses**

Universities and Colleges Perspective on GPA



University / College	Scholarship Consideration	Application Consideration
CU	Looks at weighted GPA	Asks for unweighted, but mostly receive weighted, and they do not recalculate
CSU	Look at highest reported GPA and does not recalculate - class rank IS considered for scholarships	Look at highest reported GPA and does not recalculate - class rank carries little weight in admissions
DU		We look at three different GPAs. We unweight everyone's transcript, we re-weight it with a "standard" weight of .5 for honors and 1 point for AP/IB/CE courses, and we also look at the high school GPA. This is all in addition to the "difficulty of curriculum" question asked in the school report as part of Common App. We use the same evaluation for both admission and scholarship consideration.
Mines	Looks at unweighted GPA	Looks at unweighted GPA
Colorado College		Does not recalculate GPAs. Will consider actual letter grades and highest GPA reported
Arizona State	Use unweighted GPA and class rank	Use unweighted GPA
Arizona	Hon, AP/IB will matter	Core unweighted GPA considered

Universities and Colleges Perspective on GPA (Cont.)

University / College	Scholarship Consideration	Application Consideration
Metro	Scholarships are merit based and it would benefit a student to have weighted grades.	Look at unweighted grades
Wyoming	uses unweighted, does not look at rank	uses unweighted, does not look at rank
Duke	Weighted and unweighted	No separate application - uses college application
Regis University	Heavily impacted by weighted GPA - does not look at rank	Heavily impacted by weighted GPA - does not look at rank
Notre Dame	Primarily need based, will match 100% of demonstrated need	Holistic review of academics and non-academics
Colorado Mesa	Looks at GPA weighted or unweighted. Does not look at rank.	Looks at GPA weighted or unweighted. Does not look at rank.
Fort Lewis College	Use only unweighted GPA	Holistic review to include class rank and unweighted GPA

Scholarships



Scholarship	Details
Boettcher	They look at the student in a holistic manner. They look for Academic excellence (Rigor and grades), Leadership/Involvement, Service to the community and character. Regarding GPA there is no set minimum for the application process. Weighted or unweighted GPAs are accepted. If weighted they request that the school calculate the equivalent as an unweighted GPA. Also look at ACT, SAT scores, class rank at the school level.
Daniels Fund	Earn a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 in high school (on an unweighted 4.0 scale) Earn a minimum SAT Math score of 490 and a minimum Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score of 490, or a minimum ACT score of 18 in each category (writing score not required). Meet financial eligibility requirements

Fall 2024 Weighted Grade Survey Results

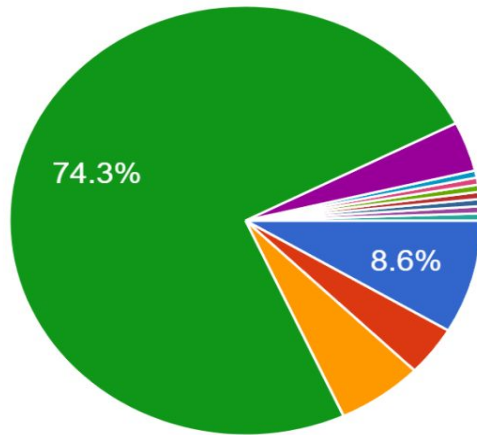
STAFF



STUDENT

My role in the District is:

187 responses

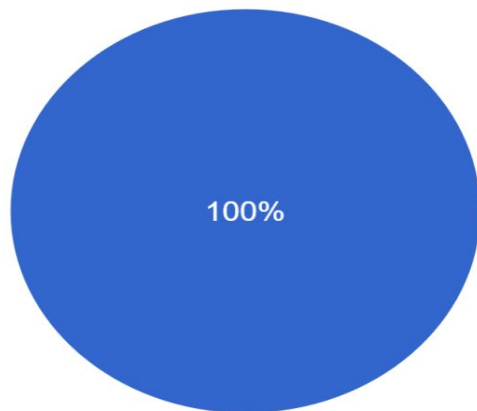


- HS/Alternative Education Principal
- HS Assistant Principal
- HS Counselor
- HS Teacher
- District Staff
- HS Principal
- HS Math Department
- Department Chair with English Depart...

▲ 1/2 ▼

My role in the District is:

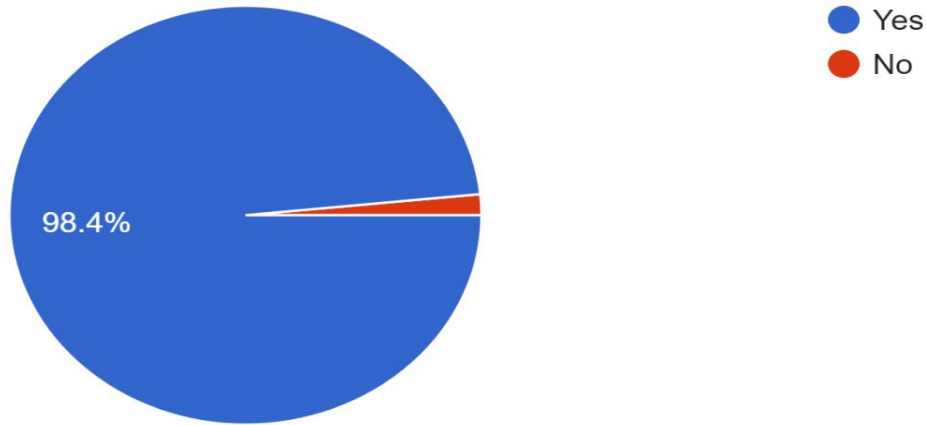
28 responses



- Student

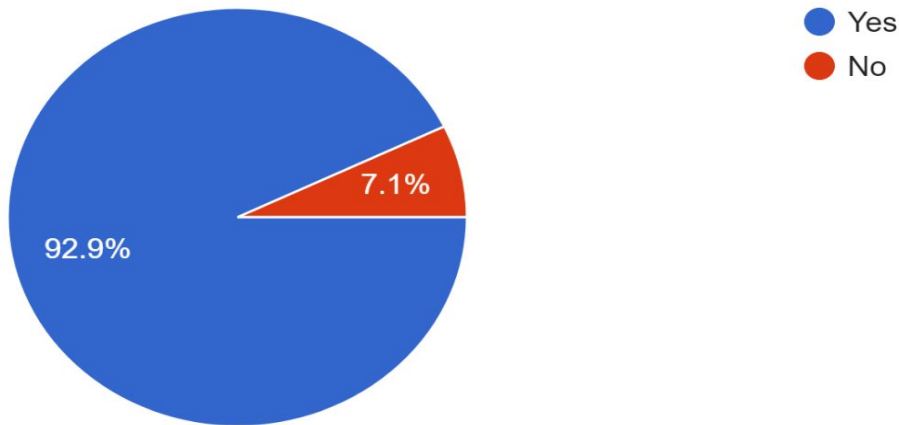
I have reviewed the proposed changes embedded in DRAFT policy IKF-R-4

187 responses



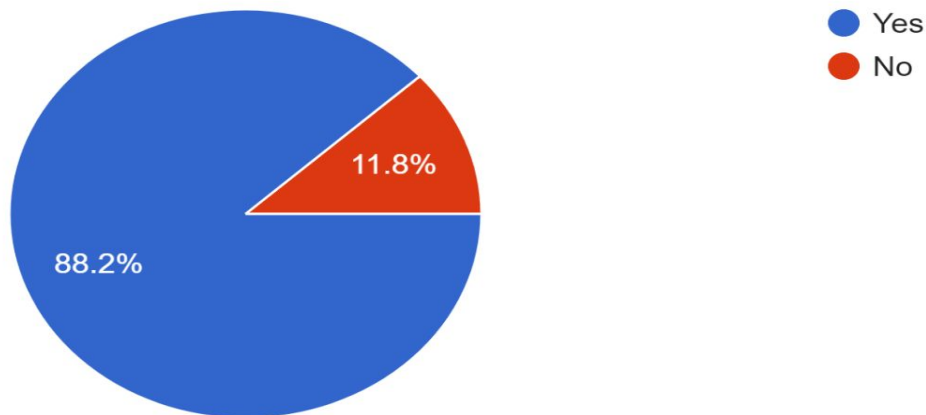
I have reviewed the proposed changes embedded in DRAFT policy IKF-R-4

28 responses



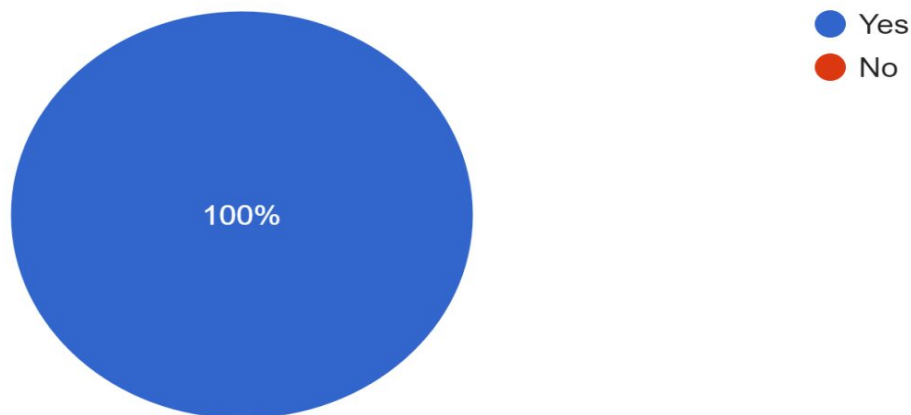
I support the portion of DRAFT policy IKF-R-4 that reads: The method used to compute grade-point average and rank-in-class will be based on a 4.0 sy...P / IB courses which will be based on a 5.0 system.

187 responses



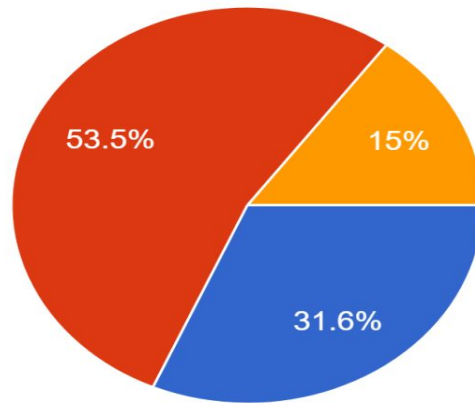
I support the portion of DRAFT policy IKF-R-4 that reads: The method used to compute grade-point average and rank-in-class will be based on a 4.0 sy...P / IB courses which will be based on a 5.0 system.

28 responses



I support the portions of DRAFT policy IKF-R-4 that read: The method used to compute grade-point average and rank-in-class will be based on a 4.0 sy... a district career and technical education pathway

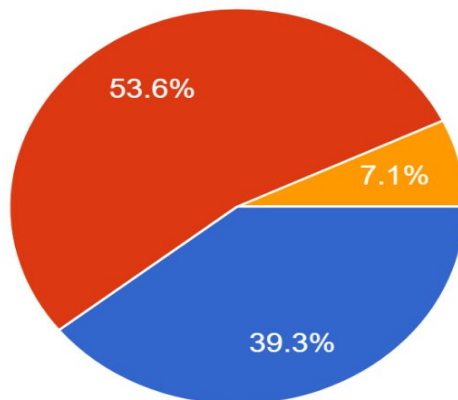
187 responses



- Yes as current policy and DRAFT additions read
- Yes, but expand weight to any/all CE/ Dual Enrollment courses
- No

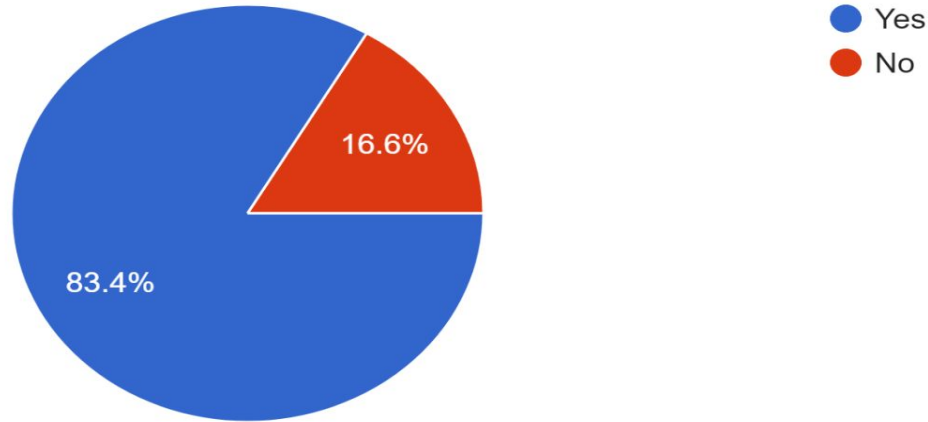
I support the portions of DRAFT policy IKF-R-4 that read: The method used to compute grade-point average and rank-in-class will be based on a 4.0 sy... a district career and technical education pathway

28 responses

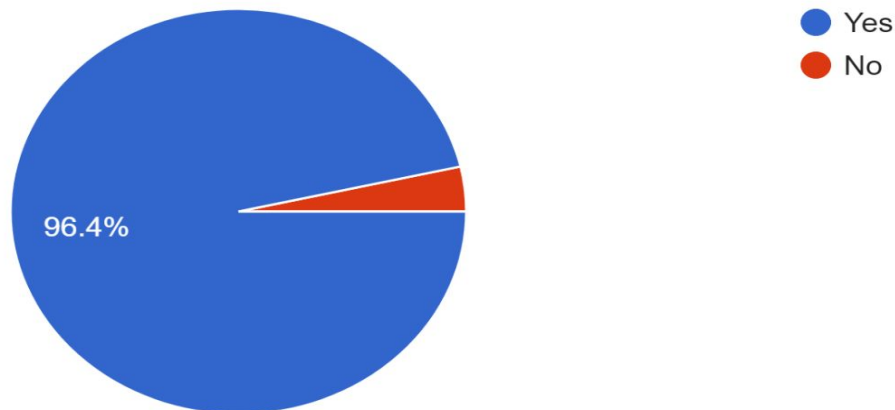


- Yes as current policy and DRAFT additions read
- Yes, but expand weight to any/all CE/ Dual Enrollment courses
- No

I support the portion of draft policy IKF-R-4 that reads: The method used to compute grade-point average and rank-in-class will be based on a 4.0 s...onors courses which will be based on a 4.5 system
187 responses

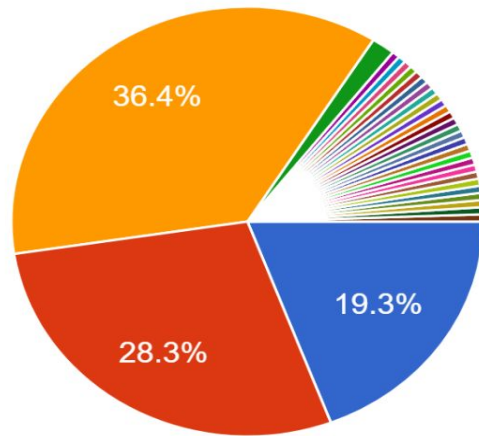


I support the portion of draft policy IKF-R-4 that reads: The method used to compute grade-point average and rank-in-class will be based on a 4.0 s...onors courses which will be based on a 4.5 system
28 responses



Specific to weighting Honors courses, I believe we should weigh:

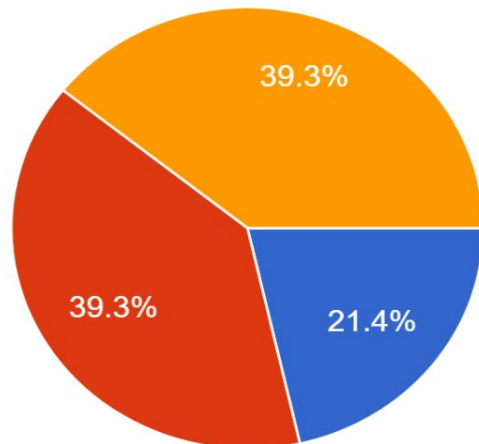
187 responses



- All "CORE" Honors courses (Math, Sc...
 - All "CORE" content plus World Langu...
 - All honors courses in any content area...
 - None
 - Im not sure
 - All approved honors level courses that...
 - no to any honors
 - the world language classes level 3 an...
- ▲ 1/4 ▼

Specific to weighting Honors courses, I believe we should weigh:

28 responses



- All "CORE" Honors courses (Math, Science, English and Social Studies)
- All "CORE" content plus World Languages Level III and above
- All honors courses in any content area that offer AP/IB

When weighting any courses, what criteria do you believe should be used to receive weighted credit?

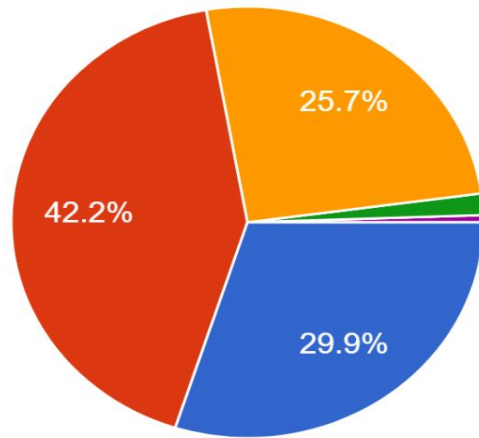
187 staff responses

28 student responses

The responses will be considered in future work by the “Weighted Grade Task Force”

In regards to a timeline for implementing any new portion of draft policy IKF-R-4, I believe we should

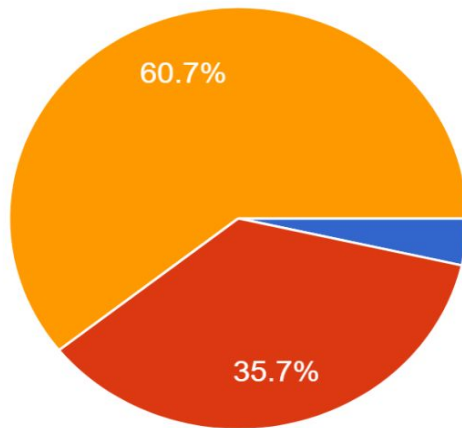
187 responses



- Implement next fall with the Class of 2028 (Freshman only)
- Implement next fall for all grades 9-12 (Fall 2025 and beyond)
- Implement next fall for all grades 9-12 (retroactive to Fall 2023 and beyond)
- Implement immediately and retroactively for all grades 9-12 (Fall 2021 and beyond)
- Implement immediately for this year for all grades 9-12 (Fall 2024 and beyond)

In regards to a timeline for implementing any new portion of draft policy IKF-R-4, I believe we should

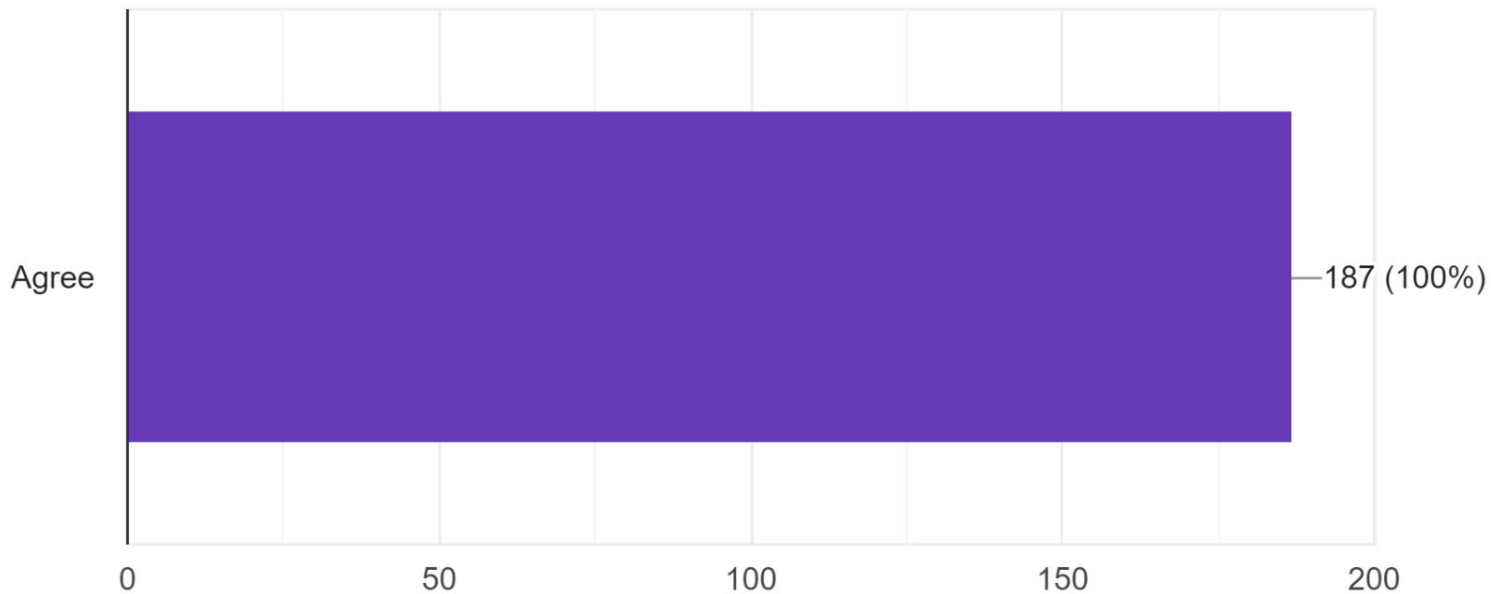
28 responses



- Implement next fall with the Class of 2028 (Freshman only)
- Implement next fall for all grades 9-12 (Fall 2025 and beyond)
- Implement next fall for all grades 9-12 (retroactive to Fall 2023 and beyond)

I understand that I am providing feedback to the proposed changes to DRAFT policy IKF-R-4 and that any final decision regarding policy revisions r...with the Superintendent and/or Board of Education.

187 responses



District Policy IKF-R-4

Current Policy

DRAFT Changes (12/2)

Course Possibilities



Curriculum Council Updates



- **A Weighted Grades Task Force will be created:**
 - Four members from each high school to represent 4 core content areas: Math, Science, ELA, Social Studies
 - These may be your council members or someone else you select
 - A different committee than current council

- **Roles/responsibilities of the task force:**
 - Determine which Priority Learning Outcomes (PLO) will be addressed in each Honors course vs. non-Honors course
 - Determine what differentiates an honors course from non-Honors course, beyond PLOs
 - Determine honors course criteria for future courses requests

- **Timeline:**
 - November/December: Submit names to Erica Mason/Matt Reynolds for participation on task force
 - December: Update Board of Education, Updates to SAG
 - January: Task force convenes for 1-2 full day(s) to complete work
 - Fall: implementation

District Policy IKF-R-4 Decision

- Implement policy [IKF-R-4 with DRAFT changes](#) in the Fall of 2025 for all students grades 9-12.

Brief Overview of Weighted Grades Update



- Weighted Course (4.5 Scale)
 - Core Classes
 - World Languages Level 3 and Above
- Defined Career and Technical Education Courses that are either Concurrent Enrollment or Dual Enrollment Courses in a DCSD Pathway (5.0 Scale)
- All AP and IB Courses (5.0) Scale
- Will be in effect for the 2025-26SY