

A new policy for student recognition was introduced at the January 9 School Board meeting. The Student Recognition Policy, White Bear Lake Area School Board Policy 599, specifically moves from the current graduation recognition of the top 5% of students to recognizing all students that meet certain GPA criteria.

A major shift in this policy is that students will compete against established criterion, rather than each other for recognition. While our current practice recognizes only the top 5% of students as Honor Graduates, our new policy recognizes all students who meet the established criteria identified in the proposed Laude recognition system. This is appropriate as we have a significant number of students who perform at very high levels.

A characteristic of the new policy is assurance that students who succeed in our most challenging courses are recognized as our top graduates. Our weighted grade procedures allow for students who take Advanced Placement (AP), College in the Schools (CIS), or Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses to receive a higher GPA calculation. By taking these courses students have a better chance of reaching higher recognition levels.

This policy will go into effect for the class of 2013. All high school students should keep this in mind when considering course selection for the 2012-13 academic year.

If parents or students have specific questions about this policy, please contact WBLAHS - North Campus Principal Don Bosch at 651-653-2914 or WBLAHS - South Campus Principal Tim Wald at 651-773-6205.