



# CAC Study 2022 – 2023

## Weighted Grades

Members: Justin Belarski, Lynn Haid, Effie  
Jansing-Jata, Laura Lea Murley, Todd Siler,  
Logan Wisman, Earnest Davis

Resource: Ashley Whitely

# Our Charge

For weighted grades, what is our current structure of weighted grades and how does this compare with similar school districts?

What options exist in recognizing the academic achievements of graduating students?

What strategies do similar districts implement to encourage students to select courses that support their interests, post-secondary plans and encourage appropriate rigor?

# History of Weighted Grades in Ohio



- 2015 – Ohio Dept of Education implemented College Credit Plus
- OAC 3333-1-65.2 - CCP courses must carry the highest additional weight offered by the school

# Wyoming Experience With Weighted Grades

2008

More classes  
weighted in  
addition to  
Honors/AP

2009

Middle School  
students can  
receive High  
School credit

2013

Honors = 0.5  
AP = 1.0

2015

Honors =  
0.045  
AP/CCP = 0.09

# Examples of Weighted GPA Calculations

$$\frac{\text{Total Points Earned}}{\text{Total Classes Enrolled}} = \text{Grade Point Average}$$

A = 4 pts

B = 3 pts

C = 2 pts

D = 1 pts

Unweighted Grades

$$\frac{4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 3 + 3 + 3}{7} = 3.57 \text{ GPA}$$

AP/CCP weighted at +1.0

$$\frac{5 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 3 + 3 + 3}{7} = 4.14 \text{ GPA}$$

Wyoming High School Policy

$$\frac{4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 3 + 3 + 3}{7} = 3.57 \text{ GPA}$$

$$0.09 \times 4 = 0.36$$

$$3.57 + 0.36 = 3.93$$

# Research

- Many colleges and university admission committees stopped considering class rank years ago
  - Many also unweight back to 4.0 scale
- Schools changing their weighting/Val/Sal policies have garnered media and political attention nationally
- It is common for the valedictorian from every high school in the state to receive a full scholarship to the state's flagship university.
- At least 40% of schools nationally don't award Val/Sal
- Some researchers have observed and bemoaned the psychosocial impacts of the Val/Sal battle among the top of the class

# Our Charge

How does Wyoming system of weighted grades compare with similar school districts?

What options exist in recognizing the academic achievements of graduating students?

What strategies do similar districts implement to encourage students to select courses that support their interests, post-secondary plans and encourage appropriate rigor?

# Survey of Peer School Districts



## WCS Weighted Grades Survey

*The Wyoming City Schools District, in collaboration with District parents and staff, is researching best practices regarding weighted grades and academic honors. This questionnaire seeks to understand what strategies our peer school districts implement to encourage, recognize, and appropriately reward students. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We would be happy to share our results with any interested districts.*

Regards, The Wyoming Citizens Advisory Committee

Email \*

Valid email

This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)

Name ☰ 📎 Short answer ▾

Short answer text

📄 🗑️ Required  ⋮

- Name, School District, Email
- Do you award added weight to certain classes?
- If you do weigh, which classes are weighted?
- If you do weigh, what weights are awarded?
- If middle school students are taking a class for high school credit, is that class weighted?
- Do you award Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian?
- If you do award Val/Sal, how are the designees determined?
- What other means does your district use to identify academic honors?
- If your weighting and/or Val/Sal processes have changed recently, what has been your experience with the change internally and externally?



# Survey Results

Elder

Cincinnati College  
Preparatory Academy

Walnut Hills

Robert A Taft  
Informational  
Technology

Oyler School

Clermont Northeastern

Madeira

Batavia

Anderson

Turpin

Goshen

Indian Hill

Kings

Lakota West

Little Miami

Mason

Milford

Deer Park

North College Hill

Colerain

Northwest

Norwood

Ross

Springboro

Sycamore

Three Rivers Taylor

Fairfield

Mariemont

# Survey Results Cont'd

## Which Classes Are Weighted?

**Advanced Placement, College Credit Plus, College Prep, Honors**

3.6%

**Accelerated, Advanced Placement, College Credit Plus**

3.6%

**College Prep & Honors**

3.6%

**Advanced Placement & College Credit Plus**

7.1%

**Advanced, Advanced Placement, College Credit Plus, Honors**

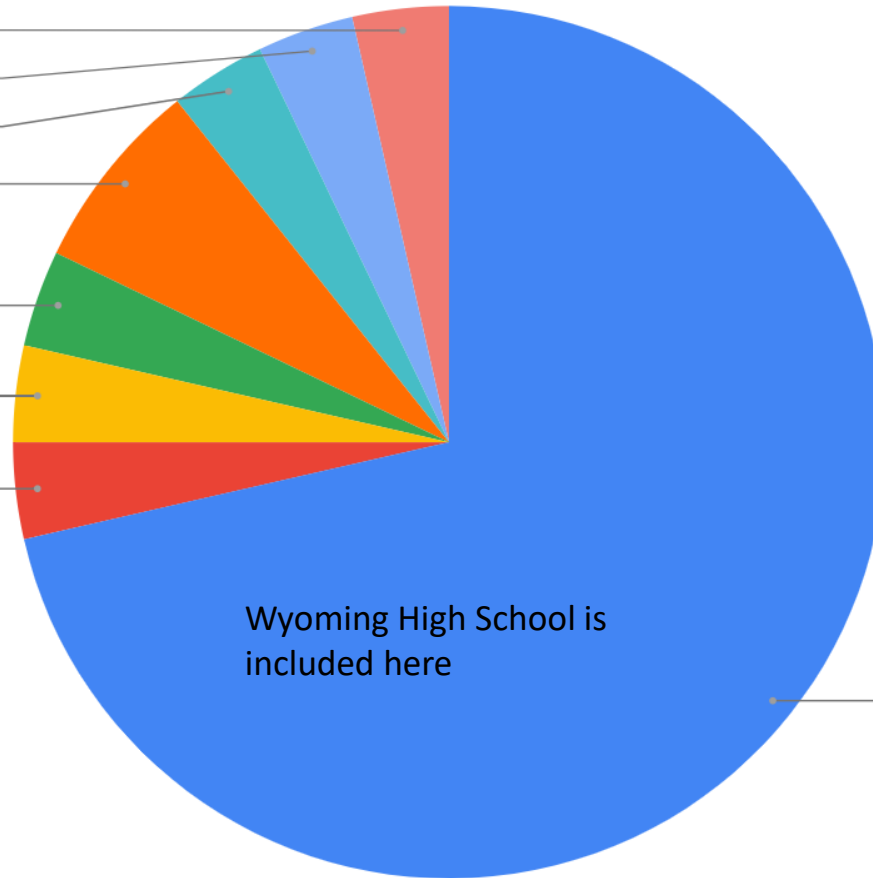
3.6%

**Advanced Placement, College Credit Plus/Dual Credit, Honors, College Prep**

3.6%

**College Credit Plus & Honors**

3.6%



**Advanced Placement, College Credit Plus, Honors**

71.4%

# Survey Results Cont'd

## Value of Additional Weight

0.5, 0.75, 1.0

3.6%

0.05, 0.10

3.6%

0.35, 0.5

3.6%

0.015, 0.025, 0.03

3.6%

0.05

7.1%

1.0

10.7%

0.03 0.06

3.6%

0.03

3.6%

0.1315, 0.263, 0.3945, 0.526

3.6%

0.06

3.6%

0.5

3.6%

0.25

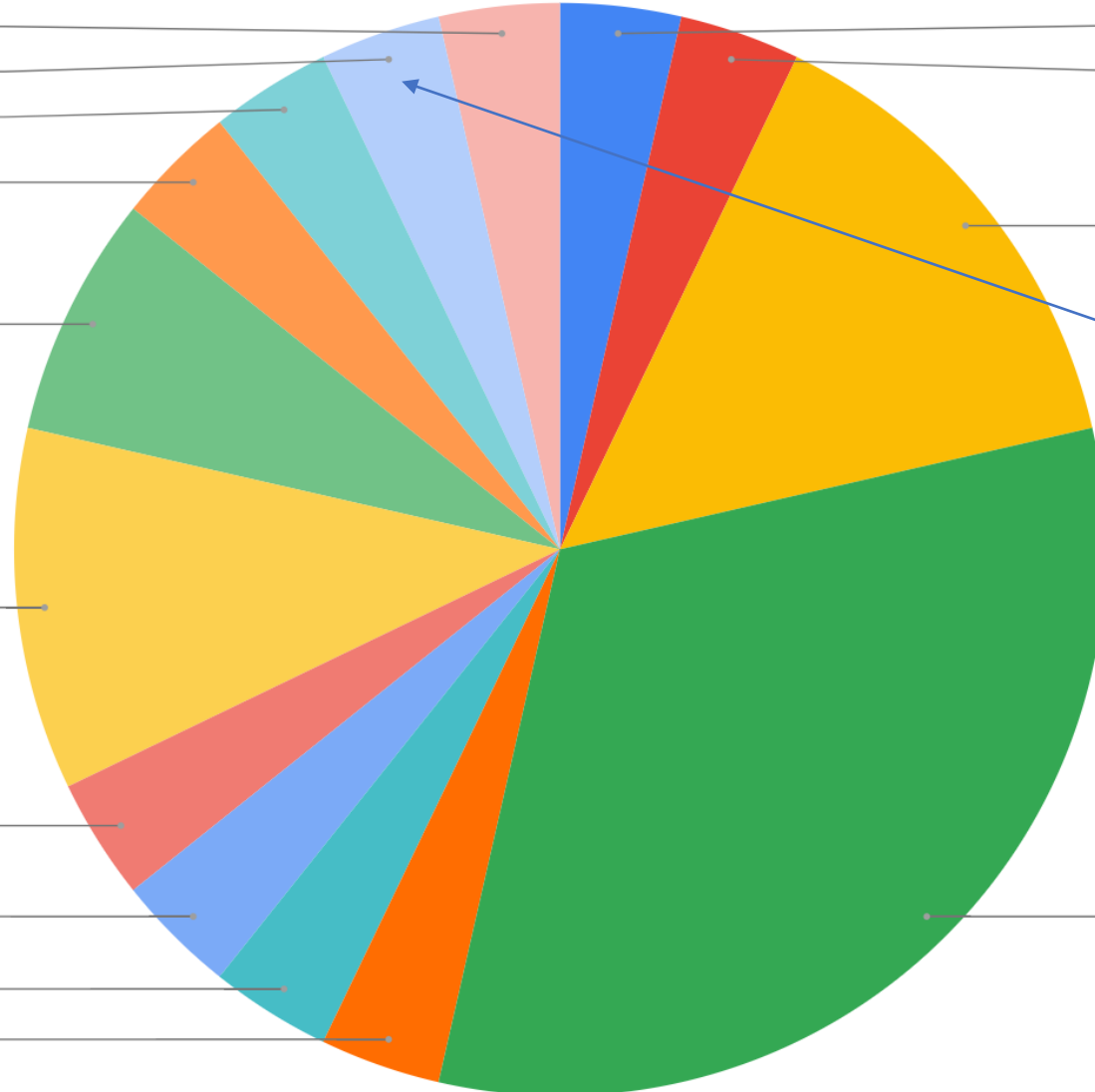
3.6%

0.25, 0.5

14.3%

0.5, 1.0

32.1%



WHS adds 0.045 & 0.09, which is most similar to this school

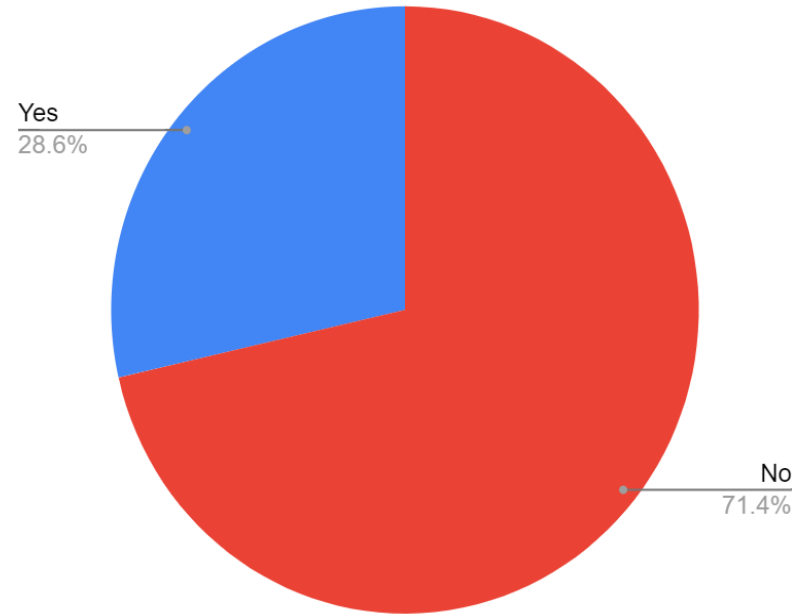
# Survey Results Cont'd

Do you award added weight to certain classes?



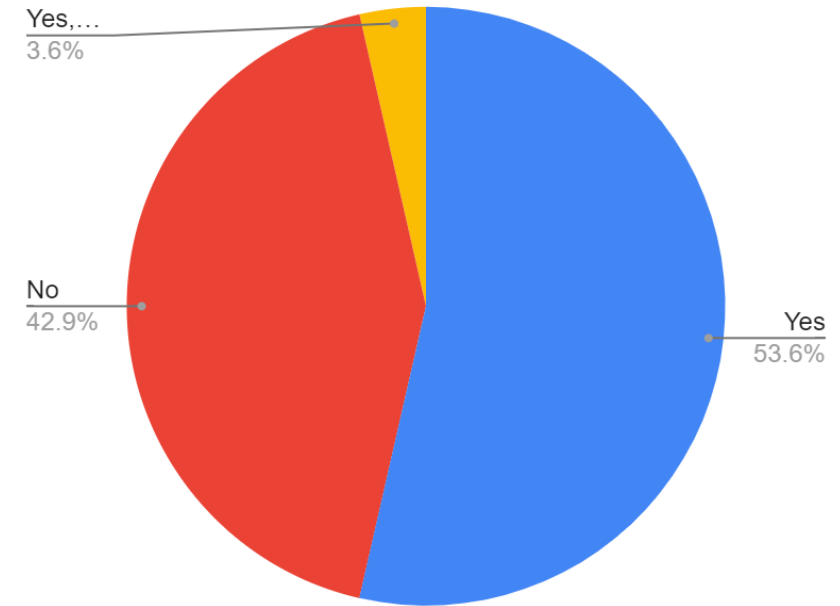
Wyoming City Schools: Yes

If middle school students are taking a class for high school credit, is that class weighted?



Wyoming City Schools: No\* (Pass/Fail)

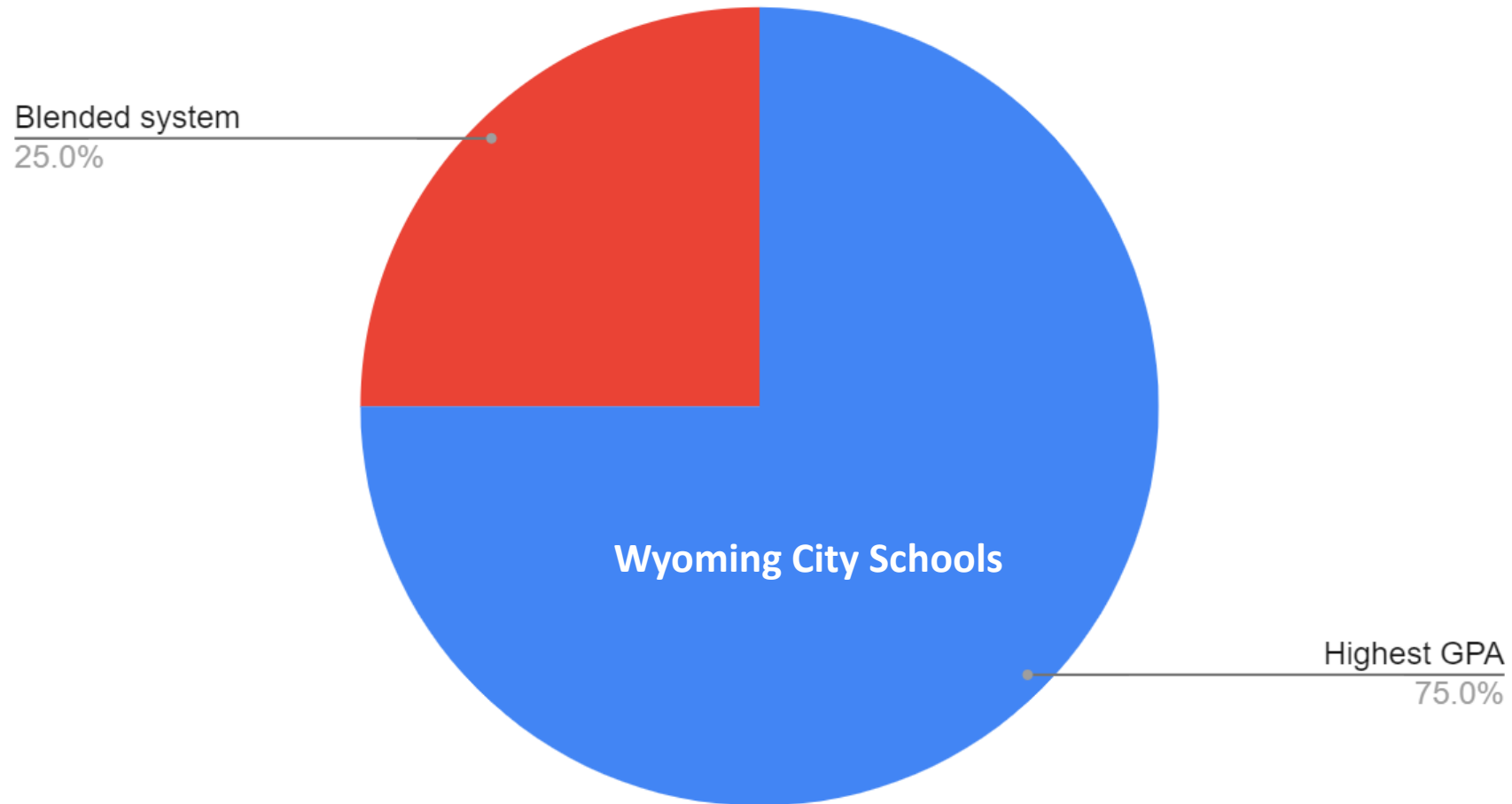
Do you award Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian?



Wyoming City Schools: Yes

# Survey Results

If you do award Val/Sal, how are the designees determined?



# Recommendations

# 1. Surveys/Focus Groups With WCS Students

- Mental health of students was a common theme in the literature and in the survey
  - Benefits to top 5-10%
  - Emotional harm to top 5-10% of students
  - Emotional harm to other students
  - Student-teacher-administrator co-creation
  - Student surveys

## 2. Weighted Grades Are Common Practice

- Weights are variable across districts
  - 1.0                                      0.025 & 0.05
  - 1.25 & 1.5                              0.5, 0.75, & 1.0
  - 1.35 & 1.5                              0.015, 0.025, and 0.03
  - 0.03 & 0.06                              0.25 & 0.5
- Weighting itself is the standard
- Methodology is less relevant



## 3. Communication Eases The “Pain”

- Weighted grades training in school communications and meetings
- Weighted grades in middle and high school student orientation
- If there are senior recognition changes
  - Overcommunicate to community
  - Extend implementation time frame
  - Alert news media
  - Communicate to politicians

# 4. Senior Recognition Committee

## **How are other districts recognizing?**

- Honor Roll
- Ropes/Tassels/Scarves
- Academic Signing Ceremony
- Latin Honors
- Honors Diploma/Sealed Diploma
- Academic Awards Banquet
- Book Awards

## **Blended Systems**

- Number of credits, honors, AP and CCP taken
- Student Application with GPA minimum for Distinguished Scholar
- Top 10 in district based on multiple means

# Summary of Recommendations

1. Talk to the Wyoming Student Community
2. Weighted grades should continue at Wyoming
3. Overcommunicate the current system of weighted grades and any changes to Val/Sal process
4. Form a Senior Recognition Committee

QUESTIONS?