

**Policy**

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VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The Jersey City Board of Education shall recognize outstanding academic achievement and to publicly acknowledge those students whose efforts and accomplishments distinguish them among their peers and within their community.

Therefore, it shall be the practice of the Jersey City Board of Education to designate a valedictorian and salutatorian for each graduating class for each high school according to this policy.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- A. The procedures for the criteria for selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian are specifically defined;
- B. The expectations for the valedictorian and salutatorian from the time of selection to graduation are clearly outlined; and
- C. The process for the revocation of the appointment of the valedictorian and salutatorian should this need arise, is specifically defined.

Definitions

A. Valedictorian

The valedictorian shall be the student with the highest grade point average from the top ten (10) highest ranking students in the graduating class;

B. Salutatorian

The salutatorian shall be the student with the second highest grade point average from the top ten (10) highest ranking students in the graduating class.

Violations of the District's Code of Conduct may result in a student not being eligible for consideration as valedictorian or salutatorian or may result in the student being removed from the honor.

Procedures

- A. The valedictorian and the salutatorian shall be selected by a Valedictorian Review Committee at each school. The selection will be based on a full 7.5 semester grade point average (GPA) a minimum of four of which must be received while enrolled within the Jersey City Public School District. Final grades consistent with the State of New Jersey graduation requirements plus District electives will be used to determine the GPA. This committee shall consist of appropriate staff as determined by each principal.
- B. The Valedictorian Review Committee will ensure that the selected valedictorian and salutatorian have uncompromised academic integrity and are exemplary representatives of the student body.
- C. In the event that there is a statistical tie for the valedictorian or salutatorian appointment, the students shall each be awarded the honor and serve as co-valedictorian and/or co-salutatorian.
- D. The appointed valedictorian and salutatorian shall continue to exemplify academic integrity and student conduct from the point of selection through graduation:

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN (continued)

1. Violations of the code of student conduct may result in revocation of the valedictorian and/or salutatorian;
  2. The Valedictorian Review Committee shall review violations to determine if the titles and privileges granted to students designated as valedictorian or salutatorian shall be denied and/or revoked;
  3. The decision of the Valedictorian Review Committee may be appealed within ten (10) school days to the Superintendent;
  4. The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.
- E. The valedictorian and salutatorian speeches are to be made available for approval by the Valedictorian Review Committee within the time period provided by the Principal.

Adopted:

Key Words

Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Valedictorian Review Committee

**Legal References:** N.J.S.A. 18A:36-20 Discrimination; prohibition  
N.J.S.A. 18A:71A-9 Higher education student assistance authority

**Possible**

**Cross References:** \*1322 Contests for students  
\*3280 Gifts, grants and bequests  
\*5120 Assessment of individual needs  
\*5125 Student records  
\*5126 Awards for achievement  
\*5127 Commencement activities  
\*5131 Conduct/discipline  
\*6147 Standards of proficiency

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.