

School Without Walls Rank Elimination and GPA Clarification Proposal

In the best interests of all School Without Walls (“Walls”) students, we aim for the following goals:

Policy Goals

This proposal asks that School Without Walls put into place policies that ensure that:

- Walls students have access to most college acceptances and scholarship opportunities possible.
- Obstacles that limit students’ college acceptance opportunities are removed.
- Walls students have a high school experience that fosters excellence, promotes healthy competition, and incentivizes course selection that encourages a love of learning rather than competition for rank among students.

To accomplish these goals, we propose the following:

1. **Eliminate class ranking** for all Walls students.
 - More than **half of all high schools in the country no longer report student rankings**, per the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC).
 - **Class ranking adversely affects the full college and scholarship acceptance potential of the majority of students in magnet schools like Walls.** At these schools, GPAs are so tightly clustered that students access to the top 10 or 20th percentile may rest on a hundredth of a point difference. Students with GPAs above 3.5 may find themselves ranked below the 30th or even 50th percentile.
 - Schools eliminated rank because they found that **comparing academically elite students to each other fostered high levels of stress and unhealthy competition.**
2. **Select and recognize Valedictorians and Salutatorians for both the GWECP 2+2 experience and traditional Walls 4-year experience.**
3. **Prepare a Walls profile to accompany student transcripts that, in addition to usual information about curriculum, admissions data and test data, explains that**
 - Walls has two equally excellent programs in the both the GWECP 2+2 experience and the traditional Walls 4-year experience; and
 - A GPA disparity has emerged over time among these two experiences creating different maximum GPAs for each.
4. **Walls maximum GPAs will be provided to colleges only if required.**
 - In cases where a college require a maximum GPA, Walls will report to that college the maximum GPA for the experience (GWECP or 4-year) in which the student participated.