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[www.stisd.net](http://www.stisd.net)

100 Med High Dr.

Mercedes, TX

Mile 2 W. Rd. & Expwy. 83

June 22, 2015

Dear STISD Family:

Thank you for making South Texas Independent School District your school district of choice. You chose our schools for your child and for your family, as you believe in the district's mission and ideals, and you are confident in our ability to prepare your child for success in college and a future career.

We are glad that you chose us, and we plan to do everything in our power to ensure your child leaves our district fully prepared for what's ahead.

During the May 26 regular meeting of the STISD Board of Directors, the board voted to allow students and families to make another important choice, a choice that could have major impacts on our seniors' educational futures.

Up to this point, each student's class rank has been automatically included on his/her transcript when applying to colleges and universities, but under the new policy being developed by the board, each student will be able to take control over this process and make the decision that fits best with his/her higher education goals.

In some cases, class rank has been found to limit college admissions rather than help the process, and the updated method will allow students more flexibility in determining what to share. Although the district will continue to calculate class ranking behind-the-scenes, beginning with the Class of 2016, seniors will need to request their class ranking, if they so choose.

This will allow for students who consider class ranking an important piece to the admissions puzzle to provide this information to those reviewing their applications, while others may opt not to provide this information to encourage admissions offices to review their applications in a more well-rounded way.

The board recommended this change to the current policy for class rank after reviewing feedback and data collected throughout the 2014-15 school year. The responses collected showed that although there is a group of district community members interested in retaining class rank in its current form, there is also a sizeable group in favor of eliminating it.

The STISD board and administration have always made decisions in the best interest of the students, and in this situation, we feel that we are doing that by honoring the wishes of both groups.

Over the next couple of months, the board will review revisions to the EIC (Local) Policy, which details the district's handling of class rank. The changes will include the process revisions described earlier in my letter, which will allow seniors to opt in to request class rank, and will also include the development of a new

Scholastic Honors recognition system to allow more deserving students to be recognized for their academic achievements.

The policy changes are in progress at this time. A draft of the revised policy can be accessed on the district website at [www.stisd.net](http://www.stisd.net) within the Parents & Family – Class Rank Information section. Additional information, including background on class rank and the reasoning behind the changes, will be made available in this section over the next couple of weeks as we proceed with board action.

As mentioned before, it is our mission at STISD to ensure that our students are well-equipped, and we are committed to providing the resources and guidance to enable them – and you – to make the best decision possible.

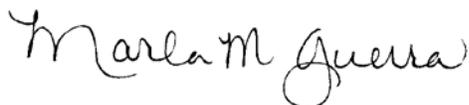
We hope that you will see these changes the same way we do – as opportunities! They are opportunities for our students to increase their control over their educational futures and highlight the things they feel are most important about themselves and their academic endeavors.

As we move forward, we urge you to be on the lookout for information on the district website and for further communication from the district and your child’s campus. In the coming school year, our campuses will also host informational meetings, and counselors will be available to work with students one-on-one to help them make well-informed decisions.

We plan to couple this policy change with plentiful information and education, and we encourage you to reach out, if at any point you need additional clarification or guidance.

Thank you, again, for entrusting us with your child’s education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marla M. Guerra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marla M. Guerra, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
South Texas Independent School District