



BURKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

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February 15, 2026

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

This past week has been difficult for our entire community, but most affected are the Class of 2026 and their families. Also affected are members of the Class of 2027 who have already begun taking Dual Enrollment (DE) courses. Adult errors and the subsequent correction of those errors has resulted in anxiety, hurt, continuous spread of false information, and unfair and unwarranted targeting of individuals, something we deeply regret.

As previously communicated, we discovered (1) Dual Enrollment grades for Burke County High School were not being recorded according to pages 3-5 of the Burke County Board of Education [Policy Manual, Regulation IHA-R\(1\): Grading Systems](#) and (2) The information presented to students and parents during Dual Enrollment meetings was incomplete, containing information from page 5 only. As a result, students and families were ill-informed about how those grades would be recorded. Once discovered, the district had a moral, ethical, and legal obligation to correct it immediately.

Approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of the senior class took at least one DE course. The corrections involved only DE grades for which the postsecondary institution provided a numerical grade to the school and only for school years 2024-2025 and the current 2025-2026, the years the Class of 2026 and 2027 have taken DE courses. All DE grades are weighted at 1.1 per policy (e.g. $83 \times 1.1 = 91$) and calculated into the student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA). A student's high school HOPE GPA, however, is not the same as his or her high school GPA. The high school HOPE GPA calculation is used for the purpose of determining academic eligibility for HOPE Scholarship and Zell Miller Scholarship. Any weighting added by the high school is removed for that purpose; therefore, this correction has no bearing on HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility. More information regarding the high school HOPE GPA may be found [here](#).

Per [Board Policy IHC: Class Rankings](#), graduates maintaining a four-year weighted numerical average of 90 or above and have met all state requirements to earn a regular high school diploma will be declared Honor Graduates. At the time of discovery, averages had not been finalized; therefore, there had been no formal announcements regarding class rankings or honor graduates. Any information to the contrary is simply false. The correction resulted in a total of three students who would have potentially qualified as honor graduates (averages of 90.0 or above) not doing so.

We understand that this correction has been emotional and disappointing for some students and families. Please know that no action was taken lightly. Our responsibility is to ensure that all policies are implemented consistently and accurately for every student. When an error is identified, we are obligated to correct it promptly to preserve the integrity of our grading practices and the credibility of our district.

Burke County Board of Education
Jackie Payton, Chair · Franklin Lane, Vice-Chair
Dr. Ruby Saxon Myles · Jaymie Miettunen · Toni Ward-Buxton

We remain committed to transparency, to supporting our students through this process, and to strengthening our communication practices moving forward so that this situation is not repeated. Our focus continues to be on honoring the hard work and accomplishments of all students while upholding fairness and fidelity to Board policy.

Thank you for your patience, your understanding, and your continued partnership as we move forward together.