



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

660 West Daley Street

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Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588

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Phone: 608-588-2551

345.52(a)

Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship Program

GENERAL

Wisconsin Statute section 38.41 establishes the Academic Excellence Higher Education Scholarship. The intent of these scholarships is to recognize Wisconsin's high achieving pupils and to provide an incentive encouraging these students to attend eligible Wisconsin institutions.

CRITERIA

1. Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute section 39.41(1m) (a), the School Board shall annually, by February 25, name the twelfth grade pupil who has the highest grade point average, but no less than a 3.8, as shown on that pupil's official transcript as of the last day of the last semester that ended just prior to the February 25 deadline as eligible for this scholarship.
2. Pursuant to Section HEA 9.05(1) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, the following eligibility criteria are hereby established for students competing for the scholarship:
 - a. Students must have attended the River Valley high school full time for the three semesters prior to the determination of scholarship and have attained senior status. A "senior" is defined as a student who is enrolled in his or her eighth semester of high school and who has completed at least 21 credits.
 - b. Full time open enrollment students will be considered eligible for the scholarship provided they meet all other criteria as required under HEA 9.04(2).
 - c. The student must have the highest grade point average, but no less than a 3.8, as calculated at the end of seven semesters.

TIE-BREAKING PROCEDURE

If two or more students have the same grade point average the following criteria, in rank order, will be used to determine the eligible student:

- a. If the eligible students' grade point averages (GPAs) are identical, then the student with the most credits in the core academics area will be awarded the honor. The core academic area is defined as mathematics, social studies, science and English.

<p>Starting with the graduating Class of 2011 and beyond - The first tie breaker will be based on the student with the highest Laude Point total per Board policy 345.1.</p>

- b. If the eligible students' GPAs are identical and criteria (a.) does not determine the recipient, then the student with the highest composite American College Test (ACT) score available as of the end of the seventh semester will be awarded the honor. This score must be in the guidance department by the end of seven semesters to be considered. At this level a student not taking the ACT forfeits consideration for valedictorian or salutatorian.

Starting with the graduating Class of 2011 and beyond - At this level, a student not taking the ACT forfeits the right to this scholarship.

If a student has taken the exam more than once, then the highest composite score received, prior to the end of the seventh semester, will be used for tie-breaking purposes.

- c. If the eligible students' GPAs are identical and the criteria (a.) and (b.) do not determine the recipient, then the students with the most credits through seven semesters will receive the honor.
- d. If none of the criteria listed above break the tie, then the tie shall be broken by a chance drawing of names.

A senior is considered qualified for the scholarship if he/she is admitted to and enrolls, on a full-time basis, in a center or institution within the University of Wisconsin system or Wisconsin Technical College system or a participating private university in the state. This must be done by September 30 of the academic year immediately following the school year in which the senior was designated as the scholar.

CROSS REF.: [Policy #345.1 – Grading Systems](#)

APPROVED: July 11, 1991
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