



# GPA

Charles Macunas

Kathleen Mozak-Pezza

Maryann Grimaldi

# The Development Process

- The Department Head for the Counseling Department was asked by the Superintendent and Curriculum Council to investigate our current GPA and class rank system relative to college acceptance and what is currently done in competitive schools.

# The Development Process

- The Counseling Department started researching class rank and GPA in schools and colleges throughout CT as well as the rest of the country.
- Teachers were invited, at a faculty meeting, to provide input on a new system. The opinions and concerns of the people who responded were taken into consideration.
- The Department Heads were asked to offer feedback at two Department Head Meetings.
- College representatives were interviewed and surveyed to determine what portions of the application are the most important in the college admissions process.
- The faculty members on the curriculum council were kept informed of the progress of this proposal through meeting agendas, meeting minutes and their own participation on the curriculum council.

# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- The Counseling Department surveyed schools in DRG A and DRG B to determine how they determine GPA and what they do with class rank.
- The schools that responded were: Brookfield, Cheshire, Darien, Fairfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Guilford, Madison, Monroe, New Canaan, Simsbury, South Windsor, Trumbull, West Hartford, Westport and Wilton.

# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- Of the seventeen districts that responded 13 (76%) of them use a 4.0 scale in determining GPA.
- Of the seventeen districts that responded:

No class rank system	6
Decile	5
Rank based on GPA	5

- For schools that weight their GPAs, the amount of weight assigned to honors and AP varies from 0.1 to 1.0

# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- In addition to surveying DRG A and B schools, the Counseling Office surveyed 51 college representatives during September and October of 2008 and did in-depth interviews with admissions counselors at CCSU and UConn.

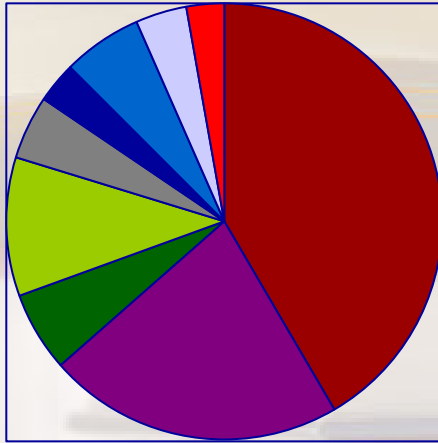
# Feedback from Colleges

- In a survey of 51 colleges, the most important part of the application was:

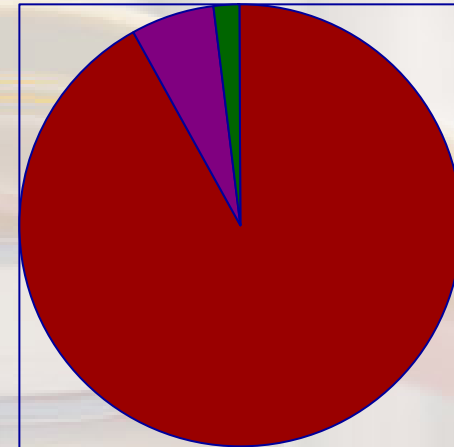
<b>Transcripts</b>	<b>86%</b> (12% ranked it 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<b>GPA</b>	<b>45%</b> (45% ranked it 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<b>SAT/ACT</b>	<b>22%</b> (47% ranked it 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<b>Class Rank</b>	<b>12%</b> (31% listed as Not Applicable/14% Scholarship only)

# Feedback from Colleges

Most Important Part of the Application



Scale Used to Calculate GPA



- Transcript
- GPA
- Class Rank
- SAT/ACT Scores
- Counselor Rec. Letter
- Teacher Rec. Letter
- Essay
- Extracurricular Activities
- Student Written Resume

- 4.0
- 100 Point
- HS Provided

# Feedback from Colleges

- In interviews with representatives from UConn and CCSU, we received the following feedback:
  - 4.0 scales are the easiest for college admissions officers to work with.
  - Since they can't use our scale, they either physically or mentally recalculate using the 4.0, 4.3, 4.5 scale. In the recalculation, UConn relies only on the academics.
  - While the current system doesn't hurt our students in the admissions process, it means that our students are not included in the college's data collection process.

# Feedback from Colleges

- CCSU Application Reading Priorities

- Essay
- Transcript including GPA
- SATs
- Letters of Recommendation

- UConn Application Reading Priorities

- SATs
- Transcript including GPA (and class rank if provided)
- Essays/Recommendations/Community Service/ Special Talents/ Significant Commitment to a Particular Activity/ Quality of HS

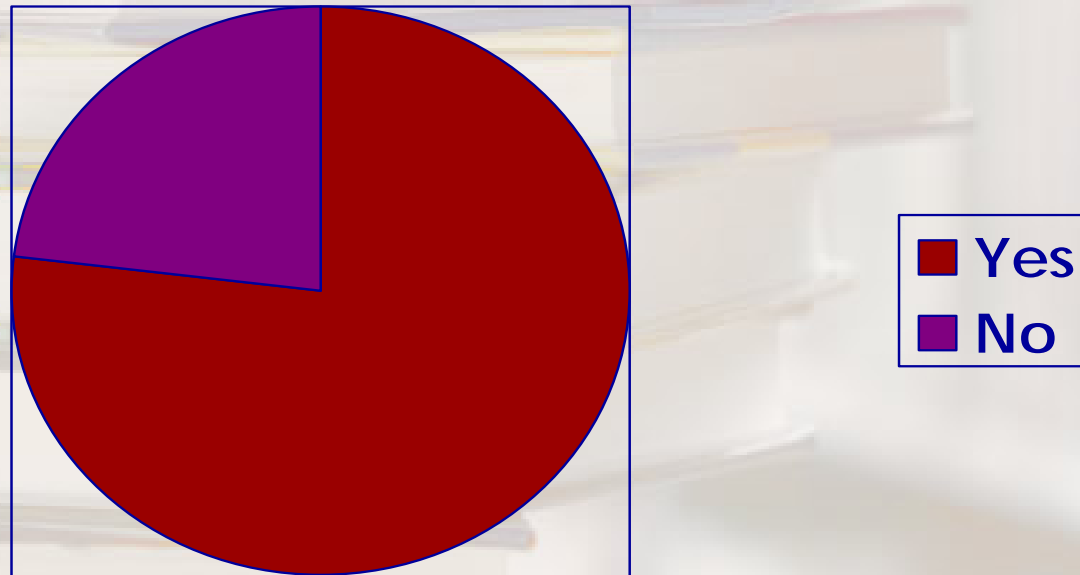
# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- Ward High School in Fairfield did a survey of 70 colleges, all DRG A and B schools, all parochial schools and all private schools in CT.
- One third of the colleges surveyed fell into the most or highly competitive category. The remaining two thirds fell into the very competitive or less competitive category.

# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- Fairfield Survey Results

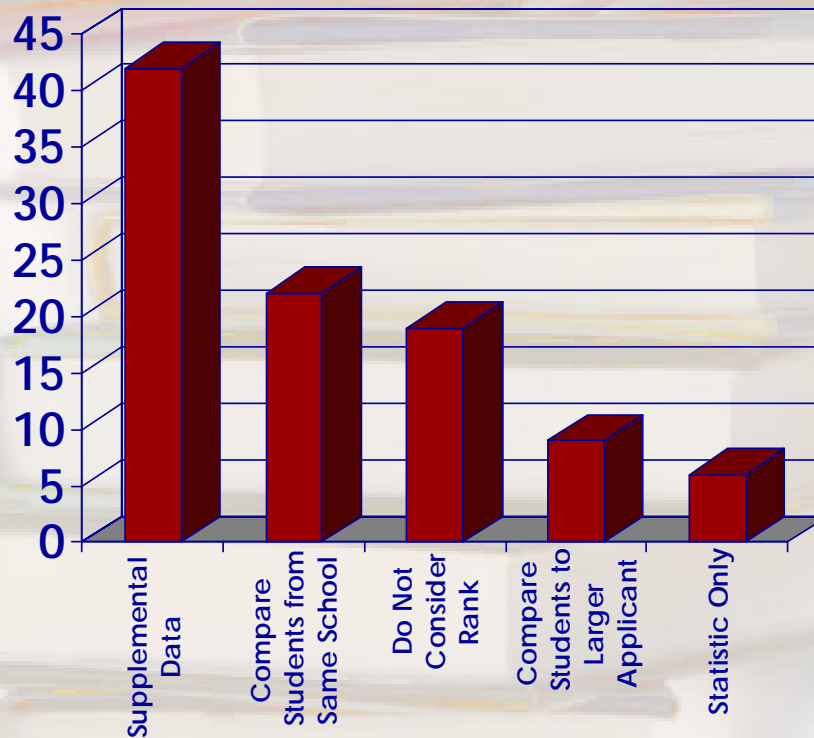
Do you look at a student's class rank on their transcript?



# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- Fairfield Survey Results

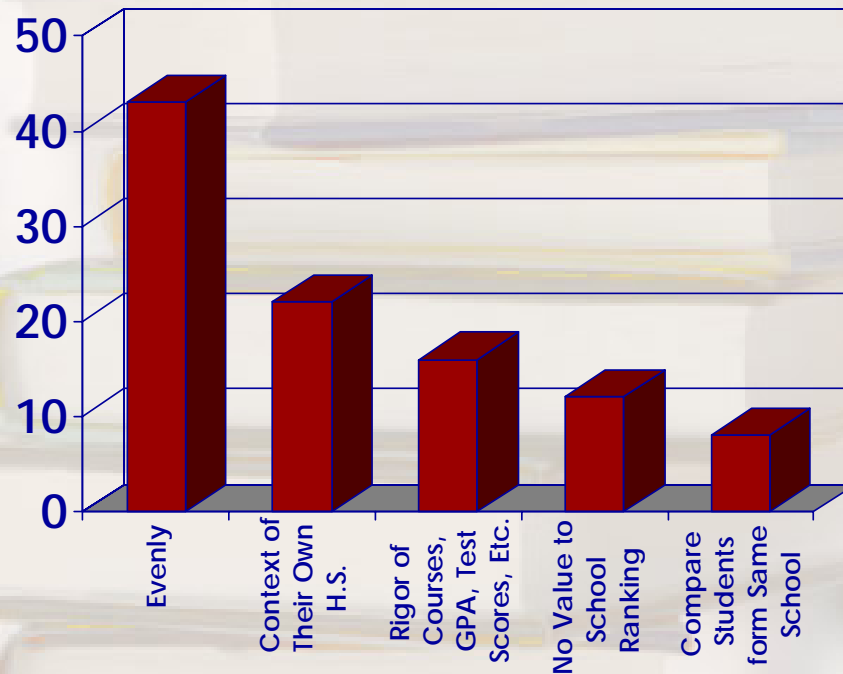
How do you use class rank?



# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- Fairfield Survey Results

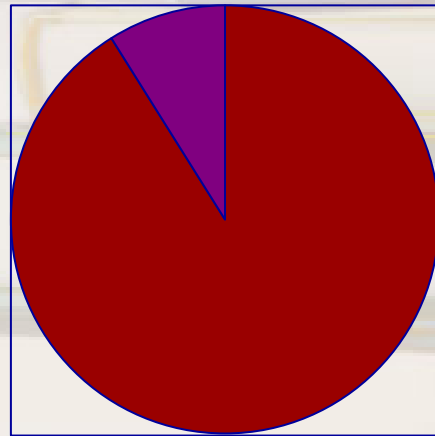
How are Unranked Students Compared to Ranked Students?



# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- Fairfield Survey Results

How Would the Omission of  
Class Rank Affect Our  
Student's Applications?

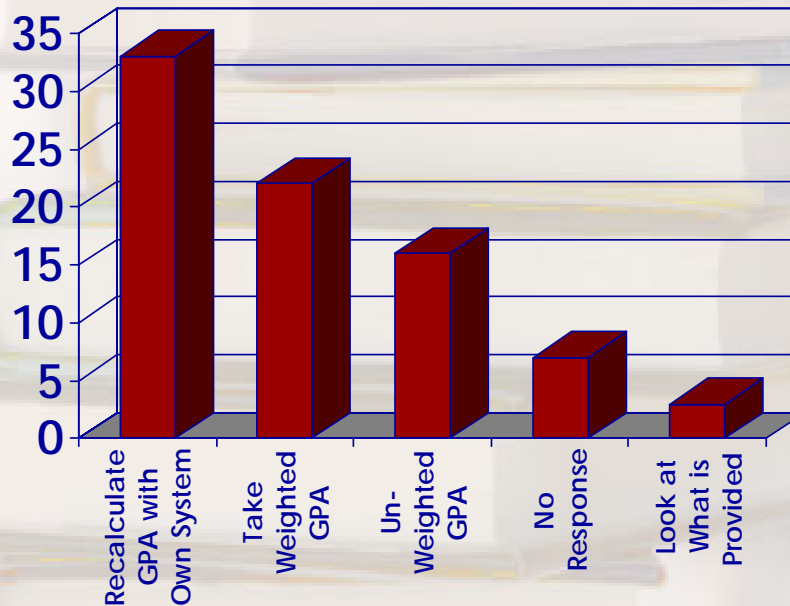


■ No Effect  
■ Substitute

# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- Fairfield Survey Results

How Does Your School Translate Weighted and Un-weighted GPAs?



# GPA and Class Rank in CT

- Fairfield Survey Results
  - 92% of parochial schools do not report class rank
  - 100% of private schools do not report class rank.

# The HK GPA

- HKHS currently calculates its GPA using a 21 point scale.
- In order to get a 21, a student would have to take only AP classes and get A+'s in all of them.
- Our most accomplished students generally earn a GPA in the 17 range.
- Our average students generally earn GPAs between 9 and 12

# The Difference Between the 21 pt. and 4 pt. scales

	CP	Hon	AP
A+	15	18	21
A	14	17	20
A-	13	16	19
B+	12	15	18
B	11	14	17
B-	10	13	16
C+	9	12	15
C	8	11	14
C-	7	10	13
D+	6	9	12
D	5	8	11
D-	4	7	10
F	0	0	0

	CP	Hon	AP
A+	4.0	4.1	4.2
A	4.0	4.1	4.2
A-	3.7	3.8	3.9
B+	3.3	3.4	3.5
B	3.0	3.1	3.2
B-	2.7	2.8	2.9
C+	2.3	2.4	2.5
C	2.0	2.1	2.2
C-	1.7	1.8	1.9
D+	1.3	1.4	1.5
D	1.0	1.1	1.2
D-	0.7	0.8	0.9
F	0	0	0

# The 21 point scale

- Advantages

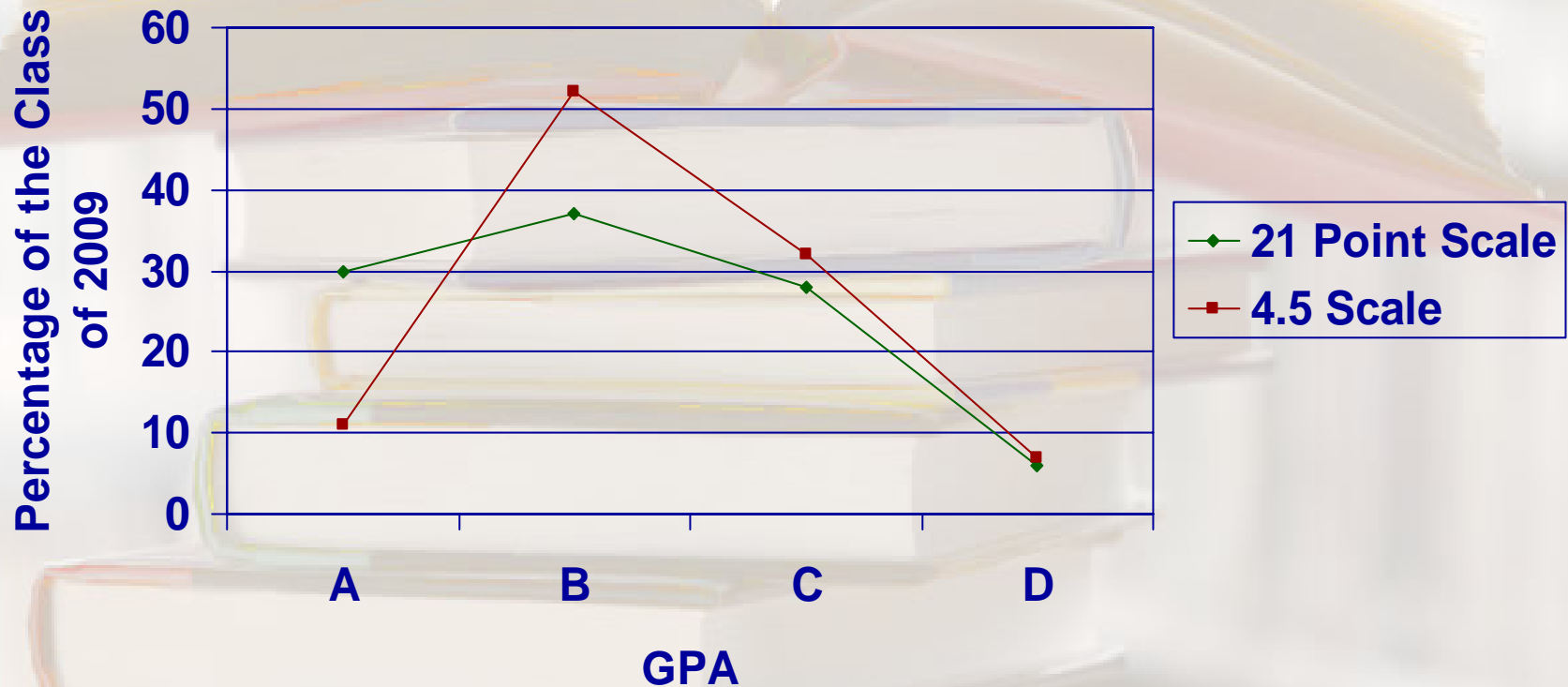
- Gives students an average of a 0.45 point boost (based on a 4.0 scale) to their GPA for taking honors and AP classes
- Provides an incentive for students to take more challenging classes

- Disadvantages

- Does not conform to the 4.0 scale used by most high schools and colleges
- Results in inflated GPA's for students in a large number of honors and AP classes
- Provides students and parents with an inaccurate view of their GPA in comparison to how colleges view their grades
- Requires a conversion to prevent students from being overlooked for scholarships that are based on a 4.0 scale

# The 21 Point GPA Boost

## Comparison of the 21 and 4.5 Scale



Using the 21 point scale, 30% of our students apply to college thinking they have an “A” average.

# The 21 Point Incentive

- Students will be more likely to take challenging classes if they know it will not adversely affect their GPA.

SAT Score	Sample Size	Average # of Honors Classes	Average # of AP classes (End of Junior Year)	Average # of AP classes out of 8 (End of Senior Year)
1250-1600	10	17	1.2	2.7
1050-1250	43	10	0.5	0.8
950-1050	35	7	0.1	0.1

# The 21 Point Incentive

- Students are placed in levels through teacher recommendation, based on an assessment of their skill and ability level, not as a result of personal choice.
- Less than 2% of students override their teacher's recommendation.
- Students with higher ability levels get a boost to their GPA even though they, like all the other students in the school, are doing work that is commensurate with their skill level.
- Students with lower ability levels do not have an opportunity to select classes that would permit them to earn that higher GPA unless they override their teacher recommendation.

# 21 Point Scale Compared to Other Institutions

- Of 50 high schools surveyed in the state:
  - 63% use a weighted 4.0 scale
  - 10% use a weighted 100 point scale
  - 10% use a scale similar to HK
  - 18% use another scale not previously mentioned
- Of the 51 colleges surveyed in September and October of this year,
  - 92% use a 4.0 scale
  - 6% use a 100 point scale
  - 2% use whatever the HS provides

# The 21 Point Scale and the College Application Process

- When applying to colleges, students do a rough conversion of their GPA to help them decide if a particular school is in their range.
- For example, a student who applies to UConn should have an SAT score above 1150, but UConn will take students with scores as low as 1000 if they have good GPA's.

# An Example Student

- What the student sees:
  - A- w GPA
  - In the top 30%
  - SAT Score 1070
- Based on this information a student would conclude that UConn (Storrs) is in their range.
- What the college sees:
  - B w GPA
  - In the top 30%
  - SAT Score 1070
- Based on this information, the student is a borderline candidate and there is a good possibility they could be waitlisted or rejected

(College GPA calculated using UConn's 4.0, 4.3, 4.5 system)

# What are the Alternatives to the 21 Point Scale

- Full GPA – A GPA that is calculated using the 4.0 scale, is unweighted and includes all classes a student has taken at HKHS
- Full w GPA – A GPA that is calculated using a 4.2 or a 4.5 scale and includes all classes a student has taken at HKHS
- College GPA – A GPA that is calculated using a 4.0 scale, is unweighted and includes only English, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Language
- College w GPA – A GPA that is calculated using a 4.2 or a 4.5 scale and includes only English, Math, Science, Social Studies and World Language.

# The 4.0 Scale

- Advantages

- It is the most widely used and most easily recognized GPA scale in use.
- Students would have a better idea of what their actual college GPA would be.
- Depending on the weight given to honors and AP, it will reduce the GPA inflation inherent in the 21 point scale.

- Disadvantages

- Students in AP and honors classes will not receive as much of a “reward” for taking challenging classes.

# Types of 4.0 Scales Used

	CP	Hon	AP
A+	4.0	4.1	4.2
A	4.0	4.1	4.2
A-	3.7	3.8	3.9
B+	3.3	3.4	3.5
B	3.0	3.1	3.2
B-	2.7	2.8	2.9
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D+	1.3	1.6	1.8
D	1.0	1.3	1.5
D-	0.7	1.0	1.2
F	0	0	0

# Our Proposal

- Change over to a 4.0 Full w GPA system starting in the 08-09 school year, with a 4.3 representing the A/A+ in the honors level course and a 4.5 representing the A/A+ in the AP level course.

# Effects of Changing the GPA

- The GPA inflation that currently exists will be resolved.
- Colleges and scholarship programs will be able to more easily interpret our GPA.
- Our GPA system will be better aligned with the most competitive schools in our state.
- Students and parents will have a more realistic picture of their college eligibility.
- National Honor Society, French Honor Society and Spanish Honors Society will be more selective.
- Students will be able to select from a greater range of electives without as negative an impact on their GPAs.
- Depending on the class rank system selected, student rank could change, although most students remain within the same decile.