



MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS SEEKING STAKEHOLDER INPUT FOR RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE EXISTING GRADUATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Monroe County School District (MCS D) officials have begun to seek out community feedback about a potential transition from the traditional valedictorian/salutatorian graduation recognition to a student honors recognition program.

The MCS D Student Progression Plan committee members proposed a program modeled after honors programs at colleges and universities. The committee recommends the replacement of the traditional valedictorian/salutatorian recognition program with a program that recognizes high academic performance of all students (option 1 below). An alternative proposal would revise the criteria for a valedictorian/salutatorian program (option 2 below). Any change in the academic recognition program would be phased in with the 9th class of 2019-2020 (graduating class of 2023). The existing valedictorian/salutatorian recognition would remain unchanged for students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade.

The public will have the opportunity to offer input via the following upcoming school board meetings, as well as access input online, via www.keysschools.com.

Residents will also be able to provide input as part of hearings at the following board meetings:

- Coral Shores High School, September 24th
- Marathon High School, October 8th
- Key West City Hall, October 22nd

MCS D stakeholders will have the opportunity to recommend one of two of the following options:

Proposed Student Honors Recognition Program (Option 1)	Proposed Alternative Valedictorian/Salutatorian Recognition Program (Option 2)
<p>Summa cum laude – Weighted GPA greater than or equal to 4.5</p> <p>Magna cum laude – Weighted GPA greater than or equal to 4.25</p> <p>Cum laude – Weighted GPA greater than or equal to 4.00</p>	<p>To be eligible a student must have an unweighted GPA of 4.0 (unless there are no students meeting this criterion).</p> <p>Courses taken in middle school will not count toward the calculation.</p>

Superintendent Mark Porter said the newly structured student honors program would provide recognition for the hard work students are doing in the MCS D high schools. “This is an opportunity to

recognize all deserving students as opposed to imposing a finite number or artificial limits. We have many deserving students. The student honors program option follows the pattern of higher education.”

The current valedictorian/salutatorian program in MCSD calculates coursework carried from middle school that are high school equivalent. The current MCSD graduation program also incorporates unweighted GPAs lower than 4.0.

Officials plan to take a recommendation based on stakeholder feedback to the board for the meeting scheduled November 12th.