

National Honor Society Committee Meeting Summary

November 19, 2013

In Attendance

There were three board members, 11 secondary administrators, 11 NHS faculty sponsors, 7 parents/community members, and an instructional coach in attendance. Cindy Ambrose, Chief Academic Officer, and Velna Allen, Executive Director of Secondary Programs, were also in attendance.

Purpose of Meeting

The meeting was scheduled at the request of Dr. Elsberry, Superintendent, and the HCSD Board of Education, to examine the National Honor Society GPA entrance requirement at the individual secondary schools and programs and to determine the feasibility of establishing a district-wide uniform GPA entrance requirement.

Background Information

As background information, the committee reviewed the summary documents that were created in March 2011 when a similar study was conducted.

Each school/program was given the opportunity to share how the current GPA used was established. Several points made included:

- Schools gave careful consideration by studying data sets and course offerings when the original GPA was established.
- There was a need to re-examine the GPA entrance criteria because course options had significantly changed for many of our schools since 2011.

Summary

The committee reviewed the March 2011 summary documents, which was based on the work of the NHS sponsors and secondary principals/directors at that time, and discussed how the current GPA used as entrance criteria at each school was established.

All committee members were given an equal opportunity to express their opinions on the topic. Sponsors from two schools, CHS and AHS, explained how GPA entrance criteria at their schools had changed over the past year and gave compelling reasons for the changes. The LHS sponsor indicated that a change was considered for the GPA entrance criteria; however, had not occurred because of waiting for the outcome of our meeting.

After much discussion and many comments, a recommendation evolved from the group for consideration.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that all base high schools and academies; Aynor High School, Carolina Forest High School, Conway High School, Green Sea Floyds High School, Loris High School, Myrtle Beach High School, North Myrtle Beach High School, Saint James High School, Socastee High School, The Academy for Technology and Academics, and The Academy for the Arts, Science, and Technology; establish a GPA entrance requirement of 3.8 on the SC Uniform Grading Policy.

Because of dual enrollment opportunities and program requirements of Scholars Academy and Early College High School, these two programs will have different GPA entrance requirements. Scholars Academy will have a minimum GPA entrance requirement of 4.25 and Early College High School will have a minimum GPA entrance requirement of 4.0.

All other entrance requirements that are currently used; community service, leadership, character, grade level, and course requirements; will remain the same as they currently exist and decisions on future changes for these criteria are left to the discretion of the individual chapters.

AAST and ATA will proceed with the NHS charter application process.

Each school will publicize the NHS information through multiple media sources and will begin the new entrance GPA criteria with the 2014 ninth grade class. Current NHS members will not be affected by the changes.

Students who attend the Scholars Academy and Early College High School must meet the entrance requirements of the program where they attend school.

Transfer students will continue to follow the same NHS membership guidelines that were established in March 2011.

Students who have previously been inducted into a base high school NHS chapter, but attend one of our programs, may elect to remain a base high school NHS chapter member or may transfer his or her membership to the program's chapter. In the 2014-2015 school year, qualifying seniors for NHS membership at the base high school and either AAST or ATA where they attend, have the option of applying for either chapter. In the 2015-2016 school year, students must submit an application to the NHS chapter where they attend school. A student cannot be a member of multiple NHS chapters.