

CUTTING CLASS RANK REWARDS STUDENTS

Contrary to some students' worries, lack of class rank will prove beneficial

The editorial is an opinion held by the editorial board of the newspaper and is a collaboration of the board. It needs a simple majority to pass. This month's vote was 6-0. To contact the editorial board, please email us at jhsblackandwhite.com or visit us in room 622.



245.

That's the minimum score a student has to have for the Regent's Admissions Index (RAI) in order to be given automatic admission to the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, or University of Northern Iowa.

The RAI is a mathematical formula that determines our futures. $(1 \times \text{Percentile class rank}) + (2 \times \text{ACT composite score}) + (20 \times \text{Cumulative GPA}) + (5 \times \text{Number of years of high school courses completed in the core subject areas})$.

While the RAI is an easy method for Iowa universities to calculate admissions for their 70,000-some students, it includes a factor that pits students against each other: class rank. It's an ancient high school tradition, but yet it still factors into our college admissions.

Not anymore. After a 7-0 vote by the school board, beginning in the 2018/2019 school year,

Johnston will not provide class rank. Now, just a student's ACT score, GPA, and core classes will be factored into their admissions.

Removing class rank will also simplify scheduling. "If you're trying to achieve a certain class rank, maybe you'll limit your classes," school board member Jill Morrill said. "There's kind of a formula if you think about it, so this way, by eliminating the class rank it'll hopefully open it up so these students can take more electives and try those things."

By not including class rank in college admissions, students will be able to take the classes they want to without fearing the repercussions it might have on rank, and opens up admissions for students applying to private schools. A top 10 percent here is not necessarily equivalent to a top percentage at Urbandale or Dallas Center-Grimes, and is a poor comparison of achievement statewide or even nationally--and universities know that. Because class rank is only used to compare students among each other, a high GPA is more indicative of that student's performance, even if they have an average class rank.

By removing rank, students no longer have to stress if their grades stack up against their peers. At Johnston especially, where being in the top 50 percent means almost straight As and Bs, it will be extremely beneficial to students that class rank is not used. We will now be viewed only according to our own achievements, rather than being compared against others.

