To the Administrator Addressed

DATE:	**April 13, 2023**
SUBJECT:	**Highest Ranking Graduate**
CATEGORY:	**Tuition Waiver**
NEXT STEPS:	**Share with principal and/or lead counselor**

In accordance with Texas Education Code (TEC), §54.301, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides an opportunity for each public and accredited non-public high school in Texas to identify a student to award a "Highest Ranking Graduate" certificate and tuition waiver document. These documents must be presented to the highest ranking graduate (HRG) in the senior class. Under no circumstances may a student ranked lower than "highest" be awarded this honor. The HRG should present the tuition waiver document to a college or university upon admission and may retain the certificate for personal use. The HRG tuition waiver document authorizes the president of any state-supported college or university to provide a waiver for tuition in accordance with TEC, §54.301.

Each local school board should adopt and adhere to a policy that outlines the criteria and the method to select one student as their HRG to receive the tuition waiver. The methodology for determining the HRG is a decision that rests strictly with the local school district. State law contains no provision that designates the Commissioner of Education or the TEA as the decision-making authority in this area.

Visit HRG frequently asked questions for additional information regarding the award. Each high school may award only one student except in the case of a tie as specified in the Attorney General's opinion below: