

# Rank in Class and College Admission



## Questions:

- **What is the impact of not having class rank on admission to college?**
- **How many schools no longer use class rank?**

## In a Nutshell

- Traditionally class rankings have been used by high schools to determine valedictorians and salutatorians. According to the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), over half of high schools no longer use class rankings (College Board inspiring minds, *Class rank and college admissions*) and fewer than 20% of colleges and universities say it is important for admission decisions.

## Summary of Findings:

- The move away from using class rankings began when small private high schools, where there were rigorous academic programs and their students were high achievers, concluded that the top 10 class rankings excluded many of their outstanding pupils (College Board inspiring minds, *Admissions decisions: What counts*; NASSP, 2010). Other small, then large public high schools followed suit. According to the literature, eliminating class rank lessens hyper-competition and stress at a crucial time in high school students' lives and encourages the college to view the whole person rather than use class rank against a student (Ferkenhoff 2006; Finder, 2005; Expert Admissions, 2010; Weber, 2010). National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) reports that, in 1993, more than half of the colleges considered class rank highly important. However, by 2008, less than 20% stated it was important (Weber, 2010).

K Walker, Rank in Class and College Admission, <http://www.educationpartnerships.org>, excerpt