

The California Academic Decathlon GPA Initiative

For the 2025–2026 California Academic Decathlon, the initiative calculation procedure will include three integrated changes designed to make the program more transparent, inclusive, and sustainable.

First, students will be classified by their **unweighted cumulative GPA**. This allows eligibility to be verified quickly and objectively, honors each student's overall academic effort, and reduces administrative burdens.

Second, freshmen will be eligible to serve as wildcard decathletes. This gives schools with smaller talent pools the ability to fill Varsity and Scholastic slots, engages students earlier, and removes the need to collect middle-school transcripts.

Third, new GPA categories will be applied: **Varsity 0.00–3.39, Scholastic 3.40–3.89, and Honor 3.90 and above**. These modestly widened bands recognize varied academic pathways while preserving clear competitive distinctions.