

## **Fw: IMPORTANT FORBES: REQUEST FOR COMMENT**

Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

Fri 3/26/2021 10:57 AM

**To:** Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

**From:** Chambers, Gwendolyn A

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 7:18 PM

**To:** Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

**Cc:** Riley, Andre A

**Subject:** Re: IMPORTANT FORBES: REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Adam,

Thank you for your follow up questions. The district responses are below. Is there anything else we can assist you with for your story? Our goal is always to respond fully and do so in a timely manner. This is made simpler if we have a sense of what information needs to be gathered up front. Please let us know if you have any other questions.

City Schools initially identified the irregularities during a review of seniors' records at AFS in Summer 2019. The concerns were elevated, and an investigation was launched in August 2019 and is ongoing. A comprehensive review of individual student transcripts for every student, starting with seniors, was conducted. Individual communications were sent to all students providing them an update on their progress toward graduation. Letters were mailed out and phone calls made in some cases.

City Schools mailed letters to the student referenced address on record, made personal and automated attendance calls, and conducted a home visit.

Further, the student in your story has a class rank that is artificially high due to the way GPAs are recorded. While I cannot speak about an individual student, here's a general explanation related to students in grade 9.

Generally, if a student is repeating 9th grade, he will have a GPA. However, that student's GPA would be compared to incoming students that do not have a GPA. Depending on when the transcript is pulled, the repeating student would have an artificially high GPA and class rank compared to new 9th graders that have yet to earn a GPA. Hence you can have a very low GPA and be ranked high because the students under you have NO GPA.

Another example: A 9th grader that transfers in with a 3.5 GPA from another district would rank above everyone else without a GPA.

Students are ranked with their grade level peers. It does not matter how long I have been in high school; your grade level determines who you are ranked with. This is an important distinction.

---

**From:** Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 4:57 PM

**To:** Media

**Cc:** Riley, Andre A

**Subject:** Re: IMPORTANT FORBES: REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Hi Gwendolyn,

Thank you for providing context regarding the public resource officer overtime. Our article is also more global in scope. Do you want to respond to the Project Baltimore findings of the student with the 0.13 GPA? Here is our draft paragraph from our piece at Forbes:

Recently, a Baltimore mom learned her high school senior had a 0.13 GPA yet ranked 62/120 in his class. The student had flunked all but three classes during his first three years of high school.

How could this student be ranked in the middle of his class? Project Baltimore and the local FOX 45 News published the findings.

Any context, feedback, or comment that you could provide would be interesting to our readers at Forbes.

Thank you again for your help shedding light on these matters.

Adam

**Adam Andrzejewski** (say: Angie-eff-ski)  
CEO & Founder | [OpenTheBooks.com](http://OpenTheBooks.com) | 312.320.1867

Senior Policy Contributor | *Forbes*  
Read Adam's '*Latest*' & '*Most Popular*' editorials at *Forbes* -  
[Click here](#) and scroll down

---

**From:** Chambers, Gwendolyn A  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>  
**Cc:** Riley, Andre A  
**Subject:** Re: IMPORTANT FORBES: REQUEST FOR COMMENT

Adam, the district response is below.

Many school police officers in City Schools perform other duties outside of the scope of their City Schools responsibilities during off-duty time. In this case, the majority of the overtime is non-school system related overtime which is reimbursable by outside agencies. In the past year, examples of off-duty work for outside agencies included work at COVID-related meal sites at recreation centers, election sites, COVID-19 test sites, and more.

---

**From:** Adam Andrzejewski <Adam@openthebooks.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 8:49 PM  
**To:** Media