

## Grading Scale Policy

### Legislative Mandate

The Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, was amended by adding Section 59-5-68 so as to establish a procedure whereby the State Board of Education shall adopt and the school districts shall use a uniform grading system no later than school year 2000–01.

Section 59-5-68 reads as follows:

The General Assembly finds that given the fact the State provides substantial financial academic assistance to students of the State based on cumulative grade point averages and districts currently use a variety of grading scales, it is in the best interest of the students of South Carolina for a uniform grading scale to be developed and adopted by the State Board of Education to be implemented in all public schools of the State. Therefore, the State Board of Education is directed to establish a task force comprised of superintendents, principals, teachers, and representatives of school boards and higher education no later than June 30, 1999. The task force shall make recommendations to the board including, but not limited to, the following: consistent numerical breaks for letter grades; consideration of standards to define an honors course; appropriate weighting of courses; and determination of courses and weightings to be used in the calculation of class rank. The task force shall report its findings to the State Board of Education no later than December 1, 1999. The State Board of Education shall then adopt and school districts of the State shall begin using the adopted grading scale no later than the 2000-2001 school year.

The Uniform Grading Scale Policy, as adopted by the State Board of Education in December 1999 and clarified in March 2000, applies to all students who first enroll in the ninth grade class for the 2000–01 school year. The policy, as adopted, would also apply to schools and school districts that elect to apply the policy to all students in all applicable grades. However, a school or school district may phase-in the new Uniform Grading Scale beginning with the tenth grade class of 2000–01. Decisions regarding the implementation of the new policy for all students or a phase-in of the new policy are left to the individual school districts.

If school districts elect to implement this new policy for all high school students beginning with the 2000–01 school year, the following apply to all ninth-grade students and upperclassmen:

The uniform grading scale and accompanying procedures detailed below are effective for all students receiving Carnegie units beginning in the 2000–01 school year. Through the 2002–03 academic year, students may qualify for a Life Scholarship or a 3.0 Grade Point Ratio (GPR) (or higher) for any purpose by using the provisions of the new uniform grading policy or by computing GPR under the policy of the school used prior to the 2000–01 school year. The only conversions to a previous scale allowed are those earned under that scale (i.e., grades earned in 2000–01 school year and thereafter have to be computed using the new uniform grading scale).

Current grades in courses carrying Carnegie units will be converted to the new scale according to the conversion table below. If letter grades are the only existing record, conversions will be accomplished by using the conversion system under Item 2. Those numerical grades can then be converted and given the appropriate weight by using the table below.

1. Numerical breaks for letter grades, weightings for specified courses, and a conversion chart for computing grade point ratio are shown in the chart below.

**Grade Point Conversion Table**

| Average | Grade | College Prep/<br>Tech Prep | Honors | Advanced Placement/<br>International Baccalaureate |
|---------|-------|----------------------------|--------|--|
|---------|-------|----------------------------|--------|--|

|     |   |      |      |      |
|-----|---|------|------|------|
| 100 | A | 4.87 | 5.37 | 5.87 |
| 99  | A | 4.75 | 5.25 | 5.75 |
| 98  | A | 4.62 | 5.12 | 5.62 |
| 97  | A | 4.50 | 5.00 | 5.50 |
| 96  | A | 4.37 | 4.87 | 5.37 |
| 95  | A | 4.25 | 4.75 | 5.25 |
| 94  | A | 4.12 | 4.62 | 5.12 |
| 93  | A | 4.00 | 4.50 | 5.00 |
| 92  | B | 3.87 | 4.37 | 4.87 |
| 91  | B | 3.75 | 4.25 | 4.75 |
| 90  | B | 3.62 | 4.12 | 4.62 |
| 89  | B | 3.50 | 4.00 | 4.50 |
| 88  | B | 3.37 | 3.87 | 4.37 |
| 87  | B | 3.25 | 3.75 | 4.25 |
| 86  | B | 3.12 | 3.62 | 4.12 |
| 85  | B | 3.00 | 3.50 | 4.00 |
| 84  | C | 2.87 | 3.37 | 3.87 |
| 83  | C | 2.75 | 3.25 | 3.75 |
| 82  | C | 2.62 | 3.12 | 3.62 |
| 81  | C | 2.50 | 3.00 | 3.50 |
| 80  | C | 2.37 | 2.87 | 3.37 |
| 79  | C | 2.25 | 2.75 | 3.25 |
| 78  | C | 2.12 | 2.62 | 3.12 |
| 77  | C | 2.00 | 2.50 | 3.00 |
| 76  | D | 1.86 | 2.36 | 2.86 |
| 75  | D | 1.72 | 2.22 | 2.72 |
| 74  | D | 1.57 | 2.07 | 2.57 |
| 73  | D | 1.43 | 1.93 | 2.43 |
| 72  | D | 1.29 | 1.79 | 2.29 |

|      |   |      |      |      |
|------|---|------|------|------|
| 71   | D | 1.14 | 1.64 | 2.14 |
| 70   | D | 1.00 | 1.50 | 2.00 |
| 69   | F | .87  | 1.37 | 1.87 |
| 68   | F | .75  | 1.25 | 1.75 |
| 67   | F | .62  | 1.12 | 1.62 |
| 66   | F | .50  | 1.00 | 1.50 |
| 65   | F | .37  | 0.87 | 1.37 |
| 64   | F | .25  | 0.75 | 1.25 |
| 63   | F | .12  | 0.62 | 1.12 |
| 0-62 | F | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

2. All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades for courses carrying Carnegie units. Transcripts and report cards will show course title and level/type of course taken (i.e., English I College Prep, Algebra II Honors, Math for the Technologies Tech Prep). The conversion scale should be printed on the report card. When transcripts are received from out-of-state (or in-state from other than public schools) and letter grades are recorded, the following process will be used to transfer the grades into the student's record: (This conversion process will also be used for pre 2000–01 letter grades for which no specific numerical value can be determined.)

Unless numerical averages are provided by the sending institution, the following conversion system will apply:

A=96; B=88; C=80; D=73; F=65

Grades lower than 70 received from another school, but which are indicated as a passing grade from the sending institution, will be converted to a 73 numerical grade on the new scale.

A grade of P (passing) received from another school would be converted to a numerical designation based on information secured from the sending institution as to the approximate numerical value of the "P." The receiving school will make the final determination regarding the conversion of a grade P into the uniform grading scale.

3. Two categories of weights are allowed: an additional .5 for Honors, Pre-IB, and dual credit courses; and 1.0 for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. Those weightings are built into the conversion chart under Item 1.

### Honors/Pre-IB/Dual Credit Courses

Honors courses are intended for students exhibiting superior abilities in the course content area. The honors curriculum will place emphasis on critical and analytical thinking, rational decision-making, and inductive and deductive reasoning. Honors

courses should not encourage a student to graduate early but should extend course opportunities at the high school level.

School districts may designate honors courses and give the assigned weighting under the following conditions:

- An honors course must have a published syllabus that verifies rigor that is sufficiently beyond the college prep or tech prep requirements.
- Textbooks and/or other course materials must be differentiated and more rigorous than those used in college prep or tech prep courses.
- Honors courses may be offered in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Additionally honors courses may be designated in other content areas for courses where students are earning their third or fourth Carnegie unit in the content area, provided the standards listed above are met.
- Transcripts will reflect honors designation for any honors course taken.

Dual credit courses, whether the course is taken at the school site or off campus, are defined as those courses for which the student has received permission from his or her home school to receive both Carnegie units and credit at another institution. No correspondence or internet-based courses can be given the .5 additional weighting.

4. The uniform grading scale and system for figuring GPR and class rank will apply to all courses carrying Carnegie units, including units earned at the middle/junior high school.
5. Grade point ratios will be figured uniformly in all schools using the following formula. The formula will yield each student's GPR which can then be ranked from highest to lowest rank in class. Computations will not be rounded to a higher number. All diploma candidates are included in the ranking.

$$\text{GPR} = \frac{\text{sum (quality points x units)}}{\text{sum of units attempted}}$$

**EXAMPLE:**

| Student A              | Grade | Weighted GPR | Unit |
|------------------------|-------|--------------|------|
| English I CP           | 91    | 3.75         | 1    |
| Algebra I CP           | 87    | 3.25         | 1    |
| Physical Science CP    | 94    | 4.12         | 1    |
| World Geography Honors | 83    | 3.25         | 1    |
| Physical Education CP  | 92    | 3.87         | ½    |
| French I CP            | 84    | 2.87         | 1    |

**COMPUTATION:**

$$3.75 \times 1 = 3.75$$

$$3.25 \times 1 = 3.25$$

$$4.12 \times 1 = 4.12$$

$$3.25 \times 1 = 3.25$$

$$3.87 \times \frac{1}{2} = 1.935$$

$$2.87 \times 1 = 2.87$$

$$\text{Sum of quality points} \times \text{units} = 19.175$$

$$\text{Sum of quality points} \times \text{units} \quad 19.175 \div 5.5 = 3.486363$$

divided by sum of units attempted:

The criteria for determining honor graduates, to include valedictorian or salutatorian, is a local decision. Life Scholarships are determined at the conclusion of the senior year; however, local boards may establish earlier cut-offs (e.g., seventh semester or third nine weeks of the senior year) for determining a rank for any local purpose.

6. With the first day of enrollment as the baseline, students who withdraw from a course within three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or ten days in a 180-day course will do so without penalty.
7. Students who withdraw from a course after the specified time of three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or ten days in a 180-day course shall be assigned a WF, and the F will be calculated in the student's overall grade point average/ratio.

The three-, five-, and ten-day limitations for withdrawing from a course without penalty, do not apply to course or course-level changes initiated by the administration of a school.

8. Students may retake the same course at the same difficulty level under the following conditions:
  - Only courses in which a grade of a D or F was earned may be retaken.
  - The course in which a D or F was earned may only be retaken during the current academic year or no later than the next academic school year.
  - The student's record will reflect all courses taken and the grade earned, with the following exception:

Students taking courses for a Carnegie unit prior to their ninth grade year may retake any such course during their ninth grade year. In this case, only the ninth grade retake grade will be used in figuring the student's GPR, and only the ninth grade attempt will show on the transcript. This rule will apply whether the grade earned is higher or lower than the pre-ninth-grade attempt.

