



# MEMORANDUM

Academic Office

---

**Date:** December 16, 2021

**To:** Ms. Tammy Prentiss, Superintendent  
District 86 Board of Education

**From:** Dr. Chris Covino, Assistant Superintendent for Academics

**Re:** Grading Update

In September, the Academic Department provided the District 86 Board of Education an executive summary of the changes to grading practices in District 86 for the 2021-22 school year. Following that meeting the Board was provided [a memo from the Academic Department](#) designed to answer several commonly asked questions about the alignment of grading practices in District 86, and address some of the misinformation and misinterpretations regarding this work that have emerged since the start of the 2021-22 school year.

This memo, the accompanying presentation, and ancillary documents are intended to both offer further clarification about the grading alignment work in District 86 as well as provide an update for the Board and community about the data we are tracking in order to evaluate the implementation of a common grading scale and an aligned framework for grade category weights.

The accompanying presentation has two key parts: 1. the data and information that District and Building Leadership as well as LLT are tracking, and 2. responses to the questions submitted by Board members in advance of this update.

The key questions we are asking in order to evaluate the impact of the changes to our grading practices are:

1. What is the overall impact on grade distribution?
2. What impact has the shift from total points to weighted categories had on grade distribution?
3. What impact does the new scale and weights have on students with IEPs?
4. How do grade distributions compare in honors vs non-honors courses?
5. How many students are receiving Incomplete grades?

In addition to monitoring the data referenced in the questions above, the District is also studying how and where grade weights have shifted with a common grade scale and an aligned framework for gradebook categories. The following are two summary charts which will be explained in detail during the Board presentation. The entire document can be [found here](#).

<b>Changes from 20-21 to 21-22</b>											
	English	SS	Science	Math	W Lang	CTE	Fine Arts	PHD	SpEd	TOTALS	% of total
No change in category weights	17	0	10	23	27	0	30	4	16	127	38%
Yes, change in category weights	6	3	12	11	29	0	16	0	0	77	23%
Caused Alignment of weighted scales within course teams	23	0	0	6	0	38	0	0	0	67	20%
Total Points to Weighted Categories	0	33	13	0	0	0	0	18	0	64	19%

Summative/Formative	English	SS	Science	Math	W Lang	CTE	Fine Arts	PHD	SpEd	TOTALS	% of total
70/30	28	32	4	7	26	26	30	22	9	184	55%
80/20	16	4	7	17	27	12	16	0	0	99	30%
85/15	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	8	2%
90/10	2	0	7	11	0	0	0	0	0	20	6%
100/0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	5%
Pass/Incomplete	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	2%
<b>Total Courses</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>100%</b>

The District 86 Academic Department will continue to provide updates for the Board, and maintain all grading data and documents on the [Academic Department webpage](#) for easy community access.