

October 23, 2019
3 pm
HBHS Main Office Conference Room

Weighted vs Unweighted: Questions from Instructional Best Practices Steering Committee

Who Cares and Why?

How does it Impact our students?

What is the impact on course offerings – impact on student selection of classes?

Is the way we weight equitable – how did we decided on/develop the current system?

If courses are weighted, how is access to the weighted courses determined?

How should GPA be calculated? Ex. alternative credits

Discussion notes:

Data needed: Do colleges recalculate GPA? What are the admissions departments doing?

This question is important before we can decide how we determine the impact on our students.

How many surrounding high schools are weighing courses?

Craig shares that colleges looking at transcript first. Discussion: How do we help students take courses that are right for them – challenge for better preparedness for the future.

Historical data needed: past years of top 10 with courses

Need to determine: Do we weight if there is no rank?

Scholarship impact – looking at GPA

What message are we sending to students?

Guidance needed for parents on GPA calculation for the college process.

The decisions of the committee will impact how school counseling dept guides our students.

Admissions officers are advising students to explain GPA's. Many different methods of grading across the country.

Not a simple answer. What are colleges looking at? Transcript, schedule, interaction on websites.

Students not taking electives due to top 10 and college.

Students may not take AP if it is not weighted.

Weighting can be a motivator, however the balance between challenge and anxiety is important.

Needing A+ in all classes if unweighted.

Student passion – does weighting impact course decisions. Will not having top 10 impact this?

Weighting Inequities:

Music

Year Honors and AP can be weighted first – ex. SS has AP in 10th grade, but lacking in overall offerings.

Students who do not know how to choose and balance classes – educating parents and students about the high school process.

Comparing Accel courses across content areas – what are the criteria and rigor?

Action plan:

Gathering Naviance data – what colleges are being applied to – Lauren D. & Holly

Data on courses that have occurred in the top 10 for the past 5 years – Lauren D.

How do other schools handle weighting:

New England High Schools:

Massachusetts: Lexington, Weston, Brookline, Wellesley – Shannon

NH: Hanover, Oyster River, Bedford, Souhegan – Liz

Ongoing:

By region – how do colleges use GPA or calculate GPA?

What colleges use straight GPA for scholarship incentive?