



NEW SOUTH CAROLINA GRADING LAW

(Effective: July 1, 2026 and starts with the 2026-2027 school year)

What Families Need to Know About the Grade Floor Ban ([H.5073](#))



Grades Must Reflect Actual Student Performance Per State Law

South Carolina is the first state to outlaw "grade floors" in K-12 public schools. The law bans districts from setting mandatory minimum scores, requiring instead that grades strictly reflect actual student performance.

What Changed?

Before

- Districts used a **50% minimum** "grade floors," meaning students automatically received a 50% or higher on assignments or report cards, even if work was not completed.
- Systemic policies inadvertently allowed students to advance through the curriculum without demonstrating true content mastery.

Now

If Students Don't Do the Work, They Get a Zero

- If a student fails an assignment or leaves it incomplete, teachers are now required to issue an earned **zero**.
- Students cannot access credit recovery programs or receive course credit without fully completing all required coursework.
- Benchmark and formative assessments may be used to monitor progress but cannot be included in final grade calculations.

Why the Law Passed?

- Automatic minimums hid learning gaps from parents and administrators.
- The 50% safety net lowered expectations and discouraged students from completing assignments.
- Lawmakers and advocacy groups pushed for the ban to align K-12 standards with the accountability required in college and the workforce.

Here's What It Means

- Districts **must immediately strip mandatory minimums** from local grading policies. Teachers regain autonomy to issue true earned grades.
- Report cards will accurately reflect academic reality. Accountability shifts heavily back to the student to complete all work to avoid failing.
- Because safety nets are gone, parents must maintain a heightened sense of awareness. Families need to consistently check student grades online and proactively reach out to teachers with questions or for support before a student falls too far behind.

[Rock Hill Schools Policy IKA Grading/Assessment Systems](#)