

Act 204



OVERVIEW:

On July 1, a new South Carolina law, **Act 204**, took effect.

The law changes how school districts report student grades and establishes new requirements for how students may access opportunities to improve a grade or recover credit after struggling in a course.

These changes affect three key areas: grading, content recovery, and credit recovery. Below is an overview of what has changed, what it means for students and families, and what you can do to help your students stay on track.

PRIOR TO ACT 204 OF 2026

JULY 1, 2026 AND ONWARD



GRADING

Richland One applied a recovery grade, or grade floor, of **50** to all end-of-reporting period grades on student report cards.

Minimum grade assignments are **no longer permitted**.

Students must receive the grade they earn, even when the grade is exceptionally low or difficult to recover from.



CONTENT RECOVERY

Students could participate in grade-improvement activities, commonly referred to as content recovery, to improve a current failing grade while enrolled in the course. Students were required to receive teacher/school administrator approval and understood that content recovery could not raise a grade above **60**.

Students must continue to meet all previous eligibility requirements and demonstrate substantial participation by completing at least **80%** of all graded assignments, submitting assignments in a timely manner during the grading period in which they seek content recovery. The maximum grade a student can earn through content recovery remains **60**.



CREDIT RECOVERY

Students were eligible for credit recovery if they had previously failed a credit-bearing course, met attendance requirements, obtained parent and administrator permission, and understood that successful completion would not improve their current GPA.

Students must continue to meet all previous eligibility requirements and provide evidence of substantial participation in the original course through the timely submission of graded assignments. Students who complete less than **80%** of the graded assignments are not eligible for credit recovery and must retake the entire course.



**MORE
INFORMATION?**
We're here to help!



Contact school leadership for questions and support on grading, content recovery, or credit recovery.



For additional questions on Act 204, contact the Executive Director of Secondary Education, Dr. Kevin Hasinger, at kevin.hasinger@richlandone.org.

FAQ



Helping you understand the new South Carolina law and how it impacts grading, content recovery, and credit recovery.

1



What is the biggest change families need to know?

Schools may no longer apply a minimum grade, commonly known as a “grade floor” or “recovery floor.” Students must receive the actual grade they earn, even when that grade is extremely low.

2



What is a grade floor (recovery floor)?

A grade floor is a policy that sets a minimum grade a student can receive, even if the student's earned average is lower. For example, under a grade floor of 50, a student who earns a 35 would have received a 50 on the report card.

3



Does the grade floor in Richland One still exist?

No. Under Act 204, grade floors are no longer permitted. Students will receive the grade they actually earn, even if it is below a 50.

4



Why is this important?

Low grades will have a greater impact on a student's overall course average because extremely low grades are no longer increased to a minimum of 50. As a result, it may be more difficult for students to recover from poor academic performance earlier in the school year.

5



What is content recovery?

Content recovery is an opportunity for a student who is currently enrolled in a course to improve a failing grade by demonstrating greater mastery of course standards. The student remains enrolled in the course and is responsible for completing all course requirements.

6



What is credit recovery?

Credit recovery is an opportunity for an eligible student who has already failed a credit-bearing course to complete an abbreviated course focused on mastery of the essentials standards and skills. Credit recover allows the student to earn the credit without taking the entire course over.

7



What new requirements must students meet for content or credit recovery?

Students must demonstrate substantial participation in the original course by completing at least 80% of all graded assignments in a timely manner.

8



What if a student does not complete 80% of graded assignments?

Students who do not meet the assignment completion requirement may not be eligible for content recovery or credit recovery and may be required to retake the entire course.

9



What counts as a graded assignment?

A graded assignment may include assessments, projects, classwork, essays, quizzes, tests, labs, problem-solving, or other assignments that count toward a student's overall grade determined by district and course requirements.

10



Why does assignment completion matter so much now?

Completing assignments affects two things:

1. The student's course grade.
2. Eligibility for content recovery or credit recovery if the student struggles in the course.

WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO:

- Complete assignments on time.
- Attend class regularly.
- Ask for help as soon as they begin struggling.
- Monitor grades frequently through PowerSchool StudentPortal.
- Communicate with teachers and counselors early about your grades if you have difficulties.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO:

- Check grades regularly through PowerSchool ParentPortal.
- Review missing assignments and/or any “zeros” in the gradebook.
- Communicate with teachers early about your child's grades if you have concerns.
- Encourage consistent attendance.
- Help students stay organized and meet deadlines.
- Contact the school when concerns arise rather than waiting until the end of the semester.



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