RESOLUTION NO. 24-28
OF EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 15
SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Edmonds School Board Authorizes Edmonds School District Leaders
to Create an Implementation Plan and Procedures to Ensure Fair and Consistent Grading Practices
Districtwide for Grades 7-12

WHEREAS, currently the district's policy on Grading Practices, Policy 2420, is very general and does not ensure consistent or standards-based grading practices districtwide;

WHEREAS, district progress reports for elementary students are standards-based, but district progress reports for middle and high school students are not;

WHEREAS, a great deal of research (*See resource 1 below*) exists regarding best practices in grading, including grading systems that are fair and mathematically accurate;

WHEREAS, the graduation rate in the district has been consistently lower than that of similar districts and has remained basically unchanged for at least 10 years;

WHEREAS, mathematically flawed grading practices (*See resource 2 below*) can result in a student not receiving credit in a course for reasons unrelated to their competency in the subject matter, thereby causing them to lose credit and possibly not graduate;

WHEREAS, groups of middle and high school teachers in the district have been studying and implementing best practices in grading, providing a foundation of "expert" teachers to help provide input into the process of developing a districtwide policy and set of procedures;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Edmonds School District #15, Snohomish County, as follows:

1. That the Superintendent of Edmonds School District #15, Snohomish County, Washington, is hereby designated to form a district task force, comprised of representatives of all key stakeholder groups, including teachers with and without experience in standards-based grading, to develop a plan that will lead to a set of district wide grading practices for grades 7-12 that are fair, accurate, and standards-based;

2. That the work of the Task Force will address the need for (a) the development of a Purpose of Grading statement; (b) an equal-interval grading scale, preferably with the expert-recommended four to seven categories (*See resource 3 below*); and (c) a system for separating academic achievement grades and non-academic aspects of student performance;

3. That the Superintendent will provide quarterly updates to the School Board regarding progress of the Task Force on 01/28/2025, 03/11/2025, 05/27/2025 and in future school years as needed.

4. That the Task Force will undertake these efforts with a sense of urgency, resulting in a set of recommendations to the Edmonds School District Board of Directors by May of 2025, laying out a plan for phased-in implementation.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Edmonds School District #15, Snohomish County, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof this 12th day of November, 2024

Resource 1:
Guskey, T.R., Frey, N., & Fisher, D. (2024). *Grading with integrity*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press. https://us.corwin.com/books/grading-with-integrity-287432

Resource 2:
Guskey, T.R. (2013, September). The case against percentage grades. *Educational Leadership, 71(1),* 68-72. Retrieved from https://tguskey.com/wp-content/uploads/Grading-2-The-Case-Against-Percentage-Grades.pdf

Resource 3:
Guskey, T.R., Fisher, D., & Frey, N. (2024, October). The unwinnable battle over minimum grades. *Educational Leadership, 82(2).* Retrieved from https://ascd.org/el/articles/the-unwinnable-battle-over-minimum-grades

ATTEST:

Rebecca Miner
Superintendent/ Secretary to the Board of Directors

EDMONDS SCHOOL DISTRICT
SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Nancy Katims, President

Carin Chase, Vice President/ Leg. Representative

Keith Smith, Board Member

Hawk Cramer, Board Member

Thom Garrard, Board Member