GRADING/ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS

Code **IKA-R** *Issued* **11/26**

Grading Scales

Kindergarten through grade two

Student progress in kindergarten through grade 1 is reported on standards-based report cards.

Grades two through 12

Student progress in grades two through twelve is reported for all subjects as follows:

Letter Grade	Numerical Average
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

State Uniform Grading Scale (Grades Nine through 12)

Numerical breaks for letter grades, weightings for specified courses, and a conversion chart for computing grade point ratios are listed below.

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	**Letter Grade**	**College Prep**	**Honors**	**AP/IB/Dual Credit**
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200

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South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	**Letter Grade**	**College Prep**	**Honors**	**AP/IB/Dual Credit**
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100
0-50	F	0.000	0.000	0.000
50	WF	0.000	0.000	0.000
50	FA	0.000	0.000	0.000
-	WP	0.000	0.000	0.000
-	P	0.000	0.000	0.000

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South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	**Letter Grade**	**College Prep**	**Honors**	**AP/IB/Dual Credit**
-	NP	0.000	0.000	0.000
-	AU	0.000	0.000	0.000

Conversion Process

All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades for courses carrying Carnegie units. Transcripts and report cards will show the course title and the level/type of course taken. The grading scale will be printed on the report card.

When transcripts are received from accredited out-of-state schools (or in-state from accredited sources other than the public schools) and numerical averages are provided, those averages must be used in transferring the grades to the student's record. If letter grades with no numerical averages are provided, the conversion scale effective during the year the course was completed will be used. For courses completed during school years 2015-2016 and prior, the following equivalents will be used to transfer the grades into the student's record:

A = 96
B = 88
C = 80
D = 73
F = 61

For courses completed in 2016-2017 and thereafter, the following conversion will apply:

A = 95
B = 85
C = 75
D = 65
F = 50

If the transcript indicates that the student has earned a passing grade in any course with a numerical average lower than 60, the grade will be recorded as a "P" on the transcript.

If the transcript indicates that the student has earned a failing grade in any course in which he/she had a numerical average of 60 or above, the grade will be recorded as an "NP" on the transcript.

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If the transcript shows that the student has earned a grade of "P" (passing) or "F" (failing), that grade will be converted to a numerical grade based upon information secured from the sending institution as to the approximate numerical value of the "P" or the "F."

If no numerical average can be obtained from the sending institution, an earned credit will be awarded and the receiving school will enter a "P" on the transcript.

If no numerical average can be obtained from the sending institution on the "F," the receiving school will enter an "NP" on the transcript.

The district will consider a student's transcript, along with additional supporting evidence of work such as course syllabi, lesson plans, schedules, textbooks, or other instructional resources or assessments based on board-approved options to validate course credits from home schools, private schools, out-of-state non-public schools, and non-accredited schools. The district will have the right to evaluate evidence provided by the parent/legal guardian or student before transcribing the credit. The district can award an elective transfer credit in a content area for a course that does not match those approved by the state.

For international students, the district will attempt to gather as much course information as possible from the sending school, including course syllabi, standards, end-of-course assessment results, or other instructional resources to determine the course credits that are the best match.

End-of-Course Testing

In courses requiring state end-of-course testing, the district will apply the mandatory 20 percent weighting of the end-of-course test to the student's final grade. The student will be allowed to take the examination only once at the end of the regular course duration and not at the end of an extended period granted through the credit recovery option. The school will treat students who repeat the course as though they were taking the course for the first time, and all requirements will apply.

Honors Courses

Honors courses are intended for students exhibiting superior abilities in the particular course content area. The honors curriculum places emphasis on critical and analytical thinking, rational decision-making, and inductive and deductive reasoning. Honors courses should not encourage a student to graduate early but should extend course opportunities at the high school level.

The district may designate honors courses and give the assigned weighting under the following conditions:

- An honors course must have a curriculum that extends, accelerates, and enriches the College Preparatory (CP) course study in rigor, complexity, challenges, and creativity as outlined in the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*.

- Instructional practices for advanced learners must demonstrate appropriate differentiation that will enhance the delivery of instruction while strengthening the components outlined in the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*.

- Assessments must align with the honors level curriculum and instructional best practices, to include pre-assessment, formative assessment, and summative assessment.

One-half of a quality point will be added to the CP weighting for honors courses that meet all three criteria listed above. These criteria apply to all courses, including those offered online and in other nontraditional settings, as well as those recorded on a transcript from an out-of-state school accredited under the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency. This is applicable even if the district does not offer the course being transferred.

Physical Education I, or any course that can be substituted for Physical Education I (e.g. Marching Band or ROTC), is not eligible to receive honors weight.

Transfer courses

Students transferring from schools not accredited under the regulations of the appropriate board of education of a state, regional accrediting agency, or by the U.S. Department of Education including, but not limited to, home school, private school, or out-of-state non-public charter school students, will have the opportunity to provide evidence of work to be considered for honors weighting when transferring to a public school. The district will evaluate evidence provided by the parent/legal guardian or student before transcribing the course at honors weight. The receiving school must use the South Carolina Honors Framework criteria to evaluate such evidence and will make the final decision on whether to award the honors weighting.

Advanced Learning Opportunities (ALO): Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced International Certificate of Education Courses

The following criteria apply to all ALO courses, including those offered online and in other nontraditional settings, as well as those recorded on a transcript from an out-of-state school accredited under the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency:

- Only ALO courses can be awarded a full quality point above the CP weighting. Seminar or support courses for ALOs may be weighted as honors but not as ALO courses. Quality points awarded to ALO courses cannot be changed based on participation or non-participation in an ALO standardized final examination (i.e. AP examination).

- An ALO course can carry only one credit with the quality point above the CP weighting.

- An ALO course that requires a minimum of 240 hours of instruction may receive one quality point of weighting per course (i.e. two weighted credits).

Dual Credit Courses

Dual credit courses, whether the course is taken at the school site where the student is enrolled or at a post-secondary institution, are defined as those courses for which the student has received permission from his/her home school to earn both Carnegie units and college credits for those particular courses. One quality point may be added to the CP weighting for dual credit courses that are applicable to baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees, or certification programs that lead to an industry credential offered by accredited institutions.

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College remediation and orientation classes for dual credit will be weighted as CP.

All dual credit courses earned in South Carolina should be transcribed with the 1.0 quality point weight when the student transfers to a new school. Dual credit courses earned out of state may or may not carry quality point weightings. When a student transfers, the weight applied at the sending institution according to that state's regulations will be applied to the student's transcript. The district will not change the weight of a dual credit course to match South Carolina's process.

Grade Point Averages (GPA)

The uniform grading scale and system for figuring GPA and class rank will apply to all courses carrying Carnegie units, including units earned at the middle/junior high school level.

As applicable, the district will recalculate GPAs already earned by students based on the three-decimal-point scale as outlined in this administrative rule.

Grade point averages will be figured uniformly in all schools using the following formula. The formula will yield each student's GPA which can then be ranked from highest to lowest rank in class. Computations will be rounded to the third decimal place as outlined in the state's uniform grading policy. All diploma candidates are included in the ranking.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\text{sum (quality points x units)}}{\text{sum of units attempted}}$$

The board, in conjunction with the Woodruff High School Handbook, will establish the criteria for determining honor graduates, to include valedictorian or salutatorian, and may establish earlier cutoffs (e.g. the seventh semester of high school, the third nine weeks of the senior year) when determining a rank for any local purpose. However, class rank for LIFE Scholarships is determined at the conclusion of the spring semester of the senior year.

Course Withdrawals

With the first day of enrollment as the baseline, students who withdraw from a course within three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or 10 days in a 180-day course will do so without penalty.

Students who withdraw from a course after the specified time of three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or 10 days in a 180-day course will be assigned a WF (as a 50) and the WF will be calculated in the student's overall GPA.

The three-, five-, and 10-day limitations for withdrawing from a course without penalty do not apply to course or course-level changes approved by the administration of a school. Students who withdraw with administrative approval will be given a WP. The district will establish withdrawal limitations for distance learning, dual credit, and virtual courses.

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Students who drop out of school or are expelled after the allowed period for withdrawal, but before the end of the grading period, will be assigned grades in accordance with the following:

- The student will receive a WP if he/she was passing the course. The grade of WP will carry no Carnegie units and no quality points to be factored into the student's GPA.

- The student will receive a WF if he/she was failing the course. The grade of WF will carry no Carnegie units but will be factored into the student's GPA as a 50.

If a student fails a course due to excessive absences and is unable to successfully make up the work or demonstrate proficiency in the course, the school will record an FA on his/her transcript. The grade of FA will carry no Carnegie units but will be factored into the student's GPA as a 50.

Credit Recovery

When a student successfully recovers the credit for a failed course with a 60 or higher, a "P" will be recorded as the letter grade. When a student fails to recover the credit for a failed course with a grade below a 60, an "NP" will be entered as the letter grade.

Retaking Courses

Students in grades nine through 12 may retake a course at the same level of difficulty if they earned a D, P, NP, WP, FA, WF, or F in that course or with any grade pending administrative approval. If the same level course is not accessible, the course may be retaken at a different level of rigor. The student's transcript will reflect all courses taken and the grades earned. However, only one course attempt and the highest grade earned for the course will be calculated in the GPA.

The student may retake the course either during the current school year or during the next school year, but no later than the next school year. In addition, the student must retake the course before he/she has enrolled in the next sequential course (unless granted approval by the administration to do so).

A student who has taken a course for a Carnegie unit prior to his/her ninth-grade year may retake that course at the same level of difficulty regardless of the grade earned. A student who retakes a high school credit course from middle school must complete it before the beginning of the second year of high school. In this case, although all attempts for credit must remain on the transcript, only the highest grade will be used in figuring the student's GPA.

Issued ^11/22, Revised 11/26