

Uniform Grading Policy

State Board of Education

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Spartanburg Five Board of Trustees

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Summary of Work

- Work Group #1 outlines the pros and cons of 7 v. 10 point scale
- Conversion Chart to Work Group #1 & Superintendents
- Second Conversion Chart to Work Group #1
- Meeting with Commission on Higher Education
- Meeting with General Assembly members
- Final Recommendation of Work Group #1 to Superintendent Spearman

Rationale for 10 Point Scale

- Gives South Carolina Students a fair opportunity to apply for admissions and scholarships
 - All surrounding States are on a 10 point scale
 - Lack of GPA conversions (colleges convert back to 4.0 scale)
- Provide continuity for military families and students
- Provides a seamless transition from high school to college outlined in the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate
 - Dual Credit
 - 10 point scale

Grade Conversion Chart 10 Point Scale

State Department's Objectives

- Examine the new 10 point scale and quality point conversion chart for GPAs
- Make a recommendation to State Board of Education to adopt a
 - 10 point grading scale in grades 9-12; and a
 - Quality point conversion chart to begin with the 2016-17 school year

Grade Conversion Chart

Current Uniform Grading Scale

Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep	Honors	AP/IB/ Dual Credit
100	A	4.875	5.375	5.875
99	A	4.750	5.250	5.750
98	A	4.625	5.125	5.625
97	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
96	A	4.375	4.875	5.375
95	A	4.250	4.750	5.250
94	A	4.125	4.625	5.125
93	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
92	B	3.875	4.375	4.875
91	B	3.750	4.250	4.750
90	B	3.625	4.125	4.625
89	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
88	B	3.375	3.875	4.375
87	B	3.250	3.750	4.250
86	B	3.125	3.625	4.125
85	B	3.000	3.500	4.000

New 10 Point Conversion Chart

Grade in Course	CP Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB Weighting
100	5	5.5	6
99	4.9	5.4	5.9
98	4.8	5.3	5.8
97	4.7	5.2	5.7
96	4.6	5.1	5.6
95	4.5	5	5.5
94	4.4	4.9	5.4
93	4.3	4.8	5.3
92	4.2	4.7	5.2
91	4.1	4.6	5.1
90	4	4.5	5
89	3.9	4.4	4.9
88	3.8	4.3	4.8
87	3.7	4.2	4.7
86	3.6	4.1	4.6
85	3.5	4	4.5
84	3.4	3.9	4.4
83	3.3	3.8	4.3
82	3.2	3.7	4.2
81	3.1	3.6	4.1
80	3	3.5	4

Details of Implementing a 10 Point Scale

PowerSchool

1. Lock and store all grades at the end of the 15-16 school year under the 7 point scale.
2. Enter and store summer school grades on the 7 point grade scale
3. After August 1, import 10 pt grade scale
4. Beginning with the 16-17 school year, implement the 10 point scale going forward for grades 9-12.
5. PowerSchool will store all grades and associated quality points going forward with the new grading scale.
6. At the conclusion of the 16-17 school year, PowerSchool will average the quality points stored on 7pt scale with the quality points on the 10 pt. scale to determine a GPA

Lottery Scholarships

- **HOPE Scholarship** – 3.0 GPA
 - \$2500 one time scholarship
- **LIFE** – 3.0 GPA; top 30% of class; 24 on ACT Composite Score or 1100 SAT
 - \$5000 scholarship annually if student maintains 3.0 GPA in college
- **Palmetto Fellows** – 3.5 GPA; top 6% of class; 27 on ACT Composite Score or 1200 on SAT
 - \$6700 or \$7500 if STEM major annually if student maintains 3.0 in college

Impact of Students Earning a 3.0 ("B" average)

- 2013 **40,999** students would score "B" or better approximately **13,000** more students
- 2014 **41,588** students would score "B" or better approximately **12,700** more students
- 2015 **42,874** students would score "B" or better approximately **12,000** more students

Preparation for Changes to UGP

School Considerations

- What is impacted by this change?
 1. National Honor Society
 2. Beta Club
 3. Program of Study
 4. Student Handbooks

School Communications

- Teachers: Reflected in grading practices/guidelines, syllabi
- Students: course syllabus, beginning of the year expectations
- Parents/Community: Beginning of the year packets, registration information, school newsletters, information posted on websites, school/district social media, SICs, PTOs

Spartanburg Summary

- 7 Spartanburg superintendents have decided that all districts will apply the new policy in grades K-12
- Revised policy will follow state implementation plan and be fully in effect for 2016-17
- Simplicity and standardization
- GT qualification for Dimension C will likely increase for grades 6 and up
- Require communications from all schools (July 1)
- Board will change district policy, following expected guidance from SCSBA in the fall

Spartanburg Summary

- After discussion at Tuesday's meeting, the principals agreed that now would also be an appropriate time to modify the report cards to show numerical grades instead of letter grades for grades 3-6, in addition to computing a "Final Grade" for the class
 - Benefits:
 - Consistency across grade levels
 - Parents have access to the numerical grade in the parent portal
 - Simplification of the GT – Dimension C computations