

GRADING/ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS

Code **IKA** Issued **6/16**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision for grading and assessment of student academic progress.

Students respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. The district seeks, therefore, through learner objectives and its instructional program, to make achievement both recognizable and possible for students. The district should emphasize achievement in its process of evaluating student performance.

Regularly issued report cards, combined with scheduled parent-teacher conferences, serve to promote a process of continuous evaluation of student performance. This process informs students and their parent/legal guardian and provides a basis for bringing about change in student performance if such change seems necessary.

Statewide Uniform Grading Scale

The school will follow the statewide uniform grading scale as approved by the State Board of Education. This uniform grading scale and the system for calculating grade point averages (GPAs) and class rank will apply to all courses carrying Carnegie units, including units earned at the middle/high school level.

The uniform grading scale is as follows:

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	59 and below

All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades for courses carrying Carnegie units.

Cf. IKAB, IKC, IKF

Adopted ^

Legal references:

A. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-5-68 - Uniform grading scale.
2. Section 59-18-310(B) - Development or adoption of statewide assessment program to measure student performance.
3. Section 59-18-320 - Review of field test; general administration of test; accommodations for students with disabilities; adoption of new standards.
4. Section 59-38-10 - South Carolina Education Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-234 - Defined program, grades 9-12.
2. R43-262 - Assessment program.
3. R43-274 - Student attendance.

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Grading Scales

Kindergarten and Grade One

Student progress in Kindergarten and Grade One is reported for all subjects using a standards-based checklist format on the Cherokee County School District Report Card. This document is based on the South Carolina College and Career Ready Standards and is designed to show student achievement levels each nine weeks as well as student growth throughout the year.

Grades two through five

Student progress in grades two through five is reported for all subjects using the State Uniform Grading Scale.

Grades six through 12

Student progress in grades six through 12 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 follow:

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
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

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep	Honors	AP/IB/Dual Credit
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
WF	F	0.000	0.000	0.000
WP	-	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 course title and level/type of course taken. The grading scale must 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 following equivalents will be used to transfer the grades into the student's record:

- A = 95
- B = 85
- C = 75
- D = 65

If the transcript indicates that the student has earned a passing grade in any course with a numerical average lower than 60, the average will be converted to a 65 numerical grade.

If the transcript shows that the student has earned a grade of “P” (passing), 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.” If no numerical average can be obtained from the sending institution, the receiving school will calculate the student’s cumulative transfer GPA and the corresponding number equivalent will be assigned to replace the “P.”

End-of-Course Testing and the Credit Recovery Option

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 published syllabus that verifies rigor sufficiently beyond the College Preparatory (CP) requirements.
- Textbooks and/or other course materials must be differentiated and more rigorous than those used in CP courses.
- Honors courses may be offered in English, mathematics, science, and social studies. Additionally, honors courses may be designated in other content areas for the third or fourth level of the courses provided the two criteria listed above are met. Students must have a 90 or above in the second year of the course to be eligible for the third year of honors. Honors weighting may not be designated in any physical education courses.

One-half of a quality point (.5) 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.

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

The following criteria apply to the College Board’s AP courses and to IB 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 AP or IB courses can be awarded a full quality point above the CP weighting. Seminar or support courses for AP or IB may be weighted as honors but not as AP or IB courses.

- An AP course can carry only one quality point.
- A standard-level (SL) IB course can carry only one quality point. However, two quality points of IB credit can be granted for higher-level (HL) courses in the IB program that require a minimum of 240 hours of instruction.

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 credit for those particular courses. One quality point will be added to the CP weighting for dual credit courses that are applicable to baccalaureate degrees or associate degrees offered by accredited institutions.

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

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 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 not be rounded to a higher number. All diploma candidates are included in the ranking.

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

The board will determine 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 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 five days in a 90-day course or 10 days in a 180-day course will be assigned a WF and the F (as a 50) will be calculated in the student's overall grade point average.

The 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.

If a student fails a course due to excessive absences, 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.

Retaking Courses

Students in grades nine through 12 may retake a course at the same level of difficulty if they earned a D or F in that course. The student's record will reflect all courses taken and the grades earned.

The student may retake the course either during the current school year or during the next school year but no later than that second year. In addition, the student must retake the course before he/she has enrolled in the next sequential course (unless granted approval by the school 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 regardless of the grade earned. In this case, only the retake grade will be used in figuring the student's GPA and only the retake attempt will show on the transcript. This rule will apply whether the retake grade is higher or lower than the grade previously earned by the student.

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