

Uniform Grading Policy

Orangeburg School District Three
Curriculum and Instruction
Obtained by: SCDOE

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
- Provides 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
 - SC Colleges on a 10 point scale

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

PowerSchool Transition

- Communication from SCDE
- Training from SCDE

Discussion of Rigor

- End of Course Scores for high school will slide the scale from a 70 – D to a 60 – D (not lowering expectations to pass EOCs).
- Weighting that occurs on the uniform grading scale for honors, AP, IB, and Dual Credit courses was not materially changed.
- Neither the old nor the new uniform grading scale addresses grade inflation because it occurs at the teacher level.
 - AP and IB courses have rigorous curriculum and assessment standards;
 - SCDE is developing an Honors Course rubric to vet courses that carry honors weight;
 - Dual Credit course grading will be streamlined across the state if the scales match.

Impact on Lottery Scholarship Program

Items for General Assembly to Consider Based on
Changes to Grading Scale

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

Impact to Lottery Funding

Budget Neutral

- Using the past 3 years: Final 12th Grade GPAs
 - 2015: 30,858 students scored 3.0 or better on the 7 point grade scale; the GPA for the equivalent # of students to qualify for Hope/Life on the 10 point scale = **3.503**
 - 2014: 28,929 students scored 3.0 or better on the 7 point grade scale; the GPA for the equivalent # of students to qualify for Hope/Life on the 10 point scale = **3.504**
 - 2013: 27,963 students scored 3.0 or better on the 7 point grade scale; the GPA for the equivalent # of students to qualify for Hope/Life on the 10 point scale = **3.505**

If General Assembly asks for a revenue-neutral phase in for Scholarships

- 10 Point scale has a higher top end only available for one year for current Juniors
- If you want to fund approximately the same number of students per year:
 - 2016-2017 cut should be 3.2
 - 2017-2018 cut should be 3.3
 - 2018-2019 cut should be 3.4
 - 2019-2020 cut should be 3.5

Preparation for Changes to Uniform Grading Policy

SCDE Implementation Plan

- Communication to district level leadership
- South Carolina Department of Education training with constituency groups
- Statewide faculty meeting for teachers
- Dissemination of support materials from District
- Recommendations for communications with local boards, parents, students, and community members

School Considerations

- What is impacted by this change?
 1. National Honor Society
 2. Beta Club
 3. Program of study
 4. Student handbooks
 5. Grading practices and expectations
 6. Spring communications in report cards, newsletters, and PTO and SIC meetings