

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

<b>CODE:</b>	PL-13
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Policy and Legislative
<b>DATE:</b>	April 12, 2016

### SUBJECT/TITLE

Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) Revisions: Work Group 1, Grading Scale

### PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM

Work group recommendations on 7- versus 10-point scale

### CRITICAL FACTS

The UGP Committee divided into four work groups. The grading scale work group has completed their work of investigating a change from a 7-point scale to a 10-point scale. Members include Commission on Higher Education (CHE), parents, local board member, special education director, data and accountability member, instructional leaders, superintendents, business, etc. The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has met with the CHE and the superintendents, and has presented updates to the State Board of Education (SBE) monthly. The superintendents in attendance at the March 2, 2016, South Carolina Association of School Administrators' (SCASA) meeting voted overwhelmingly to support the implementation of an immediate implementation (not a phase-in) of the 10-point scale for the 2017–18 school year for grades 9–12. Using a 10-point scale in grades 3–8 is optional for districts; however, the SCDE encourages districts to consider using the 10–point scale for middle grades where allowing students to earn high school credits is permissible.

A conversion chart will be added to the UGP to assist districts with the 10-point scale. The SCDE will provide the General Assembly with a recommendation for making the 10-point scale revenue neutral.

### TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

- April 2015  
The internal committee began working on the UGP conversion.
- December 2015  
First meeting with external stakeholders was held.
- April 2016  
The original plan was to bring stakeholder recommendations on the UGP to the SBE in June 2016. Due to feedback from stakeholders and district leadership, a decision was made, with the SBE's

approval, for implementation of the 10-point grading scale in grades 9–12 for the 2016–17 school year.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

**COST:** Potential lottery funding implications  
**FUND/SOURCE:** General Assembly

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachments:**  yes  no  
**(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)**

**Name of Attachments:**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The grading scale work group, part of the UGP Committee, has completed their work. The SCDE recommends the following motion: “The SBE approves the implementation of a 10-point grading scale for grades 9–12 beginning with the 2016–17 school year.”

**ACTION REQUEST**

FOR APPROVAL:

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: