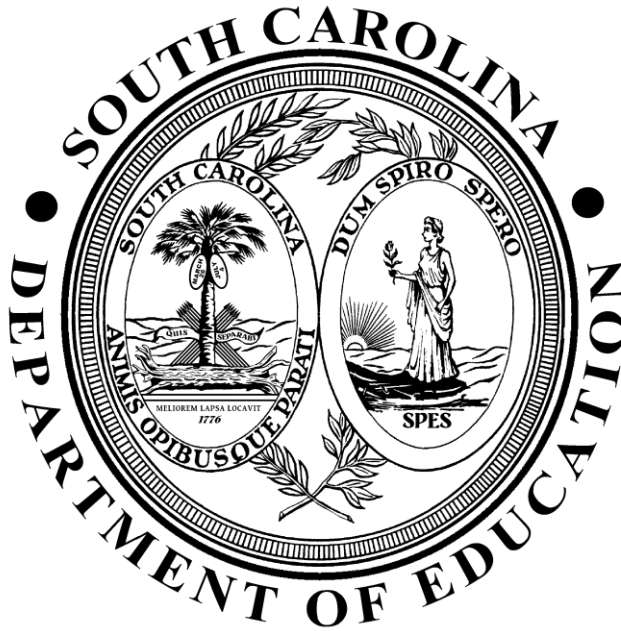


**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION  
SECRETARY TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION*



**Administrative Procedures  
South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy**

South Carolina State Board of Education

April 9, 2019

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## **The Legislative Mandate**

S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-68 (2004) reads as follows:

The General Assembly finds that given the fact the State provides substantial financial academic assistance to students of the State based on cumulative grade point averages and districts currently use a variety of grading scales, it is in the best interest of the students of South Carolina for a uniform grading scale to be developed and adopted by the State Board of Education to be implemented in all public schools of the State. Therefore, the State Board of Education is directed to establish a task force comprised of superintendents, principals, teachers, and representatives of school boards and higher education no later than June 30, 1999. The task force shall make recommendations to the board including, but not limited to, the following: consistent numerical breaks for letter grades; consideration of standards to define an honors course; appropriate weighting of courses; and determination of courses and weightings to be used in the calculation of class rank. The task force shall report its findings to the State Board of Education no later than December 1, 1999. The State Board of Education shall then adopt and school districts of the State shall begin using the adopted grading scale no later than the 2000–2001 school year.

The State Board of Education (SBE) adopted a Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) for South Carolina’s public schools in December 1999. That policy, which applied to all students who first enrolled in the ninth grade in the 2000–01 school year, was revised in 2007, 2016 (ten-point scale), and 2017. The particulars of the state’s revised Uniform Grading Policy are set forth in the pages that follow here.

## **Authorization for Separate Administrative Procedure Documentation**

The SBE authorizes the SCDE to amend the UGP administrative procedures as the SCDE deems appropriate.

This document provides non-direct policy information related to the Uniform Grading Policy; and it will provide any updates for administrative procedures that are specific to grading for South Carolina students.

### *Letter Grade Equivalents*

After 2016, the SC Grading Scale is as follows:

Letter Grade Equivalent after 2016	Numerical Grade
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59
WF	50
FA	50
P	no value
NP	no value
WP	no value
AU	no value

Prior to 2016, the SC Grading Scale is as follows:

Letter Grade Equivalent prior to 2016	Numerical Grade
A	93-100
B	85-92
C	77-84
D	70-76
F	0-69
WF	61
FA	61
WP	no value

## South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversion Charts

*Table A-1: Grade Point Conversion Chart, 7 Point Scale – 2007*

Note: This Grade Point Conversion Chart is for REFERENCE ONLY as counselors, registrars, and other school or district administrators may need to transcribe grades for courses taken prior to 2016.

Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep	Honors	Extended Quality Points*
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
84	C	2.875	3.375	3.875
83	C	2.750	3.250	3.750
82	C	2.625	3.125	3.625
81	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
80	C	2.375	2.875	3.375
79	C	2.250	2.750	3.250
78	C	2.125	2.625	3.125
77	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
76	D	1.875	2.375	2.875
75	D	1.750	2.250	2.750
74	D	1.625	2.125	2.625
73	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
72	D	1.375	1.875	2.375
71	D	1.250	1.750	2.250
70	D	1.125	1.625	2.125
69	F	1.000	1.500	2.000
68	F	0.875	1.375	1.875
67	F	0.750	1.250	1.750
66	F	0.625	1.125	1.625

Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep	Honors	Extended Quality Points*
65	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
64	F	0.375	0.875	1.375
63	F	0.250	0.750	1.250
62	F	0.125	0.625	1.125
0–61	F	0.000	0.000	0.000
61	FA	0.000	0.000	0.000
61	WF	0.000	0.000	0.000
—	WP	0.000	0.000	0.000

\*Extended Quality Points Based on Placement/Potential College Placement

*Table A-2: Grade Point Conversion Chart, 10 Point Scale – 2016 and forward*

Note: Use this Grade Point Conversion Chart when counselors, registrars, or other school/district administrators need to transcribe grades for courses taken after to 2016.

Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	Extended Quality Points*
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
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

<b>Numerical Average</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>College Prep Weighting</b>	<b>Honors Weighting</b>	<b>Extended Quality Points*</b>
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
-	NP	0.000	0.000	0.000
-	AU	0.000	0.000	0.000

\*Extended Quality Points Based on Placement/Potential College Placement

Additional letter grades were added to the SC UGP Scale Conversion Chart so that appropriate grades could be displayed for students who recover or do not recover a credit, who audit a course, or for students who have specific transfer credits from out-of-state or non-public schools:

- P – Pass
- NP – Not Passing
- AU – Audit

The course and grade information (for these letter grades of P, NP, or AU) will display on the student's transcript for students as follows:

- A student who has successfully recovered the credit for a failed course will receive a "P" as the letter grade.
- A student who does not successfully recover the credit for a failed course will receive "NP" as the letter grade.
- A transfer student whose transcript indicates s/he earned a failing grade in any course in which s/he had a numerical average 60 or above will receive an "NP" as the letter grade. (Refer to [Converting Grades on Transcripts.](#))
- A student who is allowed to audit a course per local school/district policies will receive an "AU" for the letter grade.

### **Reporting**

All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades for courses carrying high school units of credit with exceptions as listed above. Transcripts and report cards will specify the course title and the level or type of course



## Procedures for Computing Grade Point Averages (GPAs)

*Table B-1: Computing GPAs: 7 Point Scale – 2007–2016*

Note: This GPA Chart is for REFERENCE ONLY as counselors and registrars transcribe grades for courses taken prior to 2016. Computations for numerical averages should be **truncated** at the third decimal place to follow calculations set for grade policies beginning with school year 2007 through the **spring term, 2016**.

All South Carolina public schools will use the following formula to compute all GPAs:

$$\text{GPA} = \text{sum (quality points} \times \text{units)} \div \text{sum of units attempted}$$

### STUDENT EXAMPLE

Course Taken	Numerical Average	Quality Points	Unit
English 1	91	3.750	1
Algebra 1	87	3.250	1
Physical Science	94	4.125	1
World Geography, Honors	83	3.250	1
Physical Education	92	3.875	.5
French 1	84	2.875	1

### COMPUTATION

Quality Points		Units		
3.750	×	1.0	=	3.750
3.250	×	1.0	=	3.250
4.125	×	1.0	=	4.125
3.250	×	1.0	=	3.250
3.875	×	.5	=	1.9375
2.875	×	1.0	=	2.875

sum of units attempted      **5.5**      **19.1875**      sum of quality points × units

sum of (quality points × units) divided by sum of units attempted,  
**truncated** to 3 decimal places

**19.1875 ÷ 5.5**      rounded **3.488636** to **3.489**

*Table B-2: Computing GPAs: 10 Point Scale – 2016 to Present*

Note: Counselors, registrars, and other school or district administrators are to follow procedures shown in this CGPA Chart to transcribe grades for courses taken during the 2016–17 school year and forward. Computations for numerical averages should be **rounded** to the third decimal place to follow changes beginning with the **fall term**, 2016–17 school year.

### STUDENT EXAMPLE

Course Taken	Numerical Average	Quality Points	Unit
English 1	91	<u>4.100</u>	1
Algebra 1	87	<u>3.700</u>	1
Physical Science	94	<u>4.400</u>	1
World Geography, Honors	83	<u>3.800</u>	1
Physical Education	92	<u>4.200</u>	1
French 1	84	<u>3.400</u>	1

### COMPUTATION

Quality Points		Units		
<u>4.100</u>	×	1.0	=	4.100
<u>3.700</u>	×	1.0	=	3.700
<u>4.400</u>	×	1.0	=	4.400
<u>3.800</u>	×	1.0	=	3.800
<u>4.200</u>	×	1.0	=	4.200
<u>3.400</u>	×	1.0	=	3.400

sum of units attempted      **6.0**      **23.600**      sum of quality points × units sum

of (quality points x units) sum of units attempted, **rounded** to 3 decimal places

**23.600 ÷ 6.0**      rounded **3.9333333 to 3.933**

The establishment of criteria for determining honors graduates, including the valedictorian or salutatorian, is a local decision. Local boards may establish earlier cutoffs (e.g., the seventh semester of high school, the third nine weeks of the senior year) when ranking students for any local purpose. However, class rank for LIFE Scholarships is determined at the conclusion of the spring semester of the senior year.

## Converting Grades on Transcripts

### *Out-of-State or Non-Public Schools Grades*

When transcripts are received from accredited out-of-state schools (or in state from accredited sources other than the public schools as defined in Regulation 43-273) 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 as follows:

#### **School Years 2015–16 and Prior**

Letter Grade Conversion Scale	Numerical Grade Equivalent
A	96
B	88
C	80
D	73
F	61

#### **School Years 2016–17 and Forward**

Letter Grade Conversion Scale	Numerical Grade Equivalent
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 in which he or she had a numerical average lower than 60, the grade will be recorded as a “P” on the transcript. See SBE Regulation 43-273 for additional information on transfers and withdrawals.

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

### *Pass (P)/Fail (F) Grades*

- If the transcript shows that the student has earned a letter grade of P (passing) or F (failing), that grade will be converted to a numerical designation on the basis of information secured from the sending institution as to the appropriate numerical value of the “P” or the “F.”
- If no numerical average can be obtained from the sending institution for the “P” as the

letter grade, an earned credit will be awarded, the grade will be exempted from the GPA calculation, and the letter grade of “P” will display on the transcript.

- If no numerical average cannot be obtained from the sending institution for the “F”, no earned credit will be awarded for the course, the grade will be exempted from the GPA calculation, and the letter grade of “NP” will display on the transcript.

Below are resources that will provide additional information about grade data using PowerSchool as well as the official Uniform Grading Policy.

- PowerSchool Data Collection Manual with Specific Fields Defined:
  - [Cumulative Information](#)
  - [Appendix E: Uniform Grading Policy](#)
- [SC UGP GPA Calculation Method](#)
- [State Accountability Uniform Grading Policy](#)