

Uniform Grading Policy

Statewide Faculty Meeting

May 2, 2016

Dr. Julie Fowler

Dr. Sheila Quinn

Uniform Grading Policy Working Groups



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
 - 10 point scale

Grade Conversion Chart

10 Point Scale

Today's Objectives

- Examine the new 10-point scale and quality point conversion chart for GPAs
- Answer questions from the field on the implementation of the 10-point scale

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
	5	5.5	6
	4.9	5.4	5.9
	4.8	5.3	5.8
	4.7	5.2	5.7
	4.6	5.1	5.6
	4.5	5	5.5
	4.4	4.9	5.4
	4.3	4.8	5.3
	4.2	4.7	5.2
	4.1	4.6	5.1
	4	4.5	5
	3.9	4.4	4.9
	3.8	4.3	4.8
	3.7	4.2	4.7
	3.6	4.1	4.6
	3.5	4	4.5
	3.4	3.9	4.4
	3.3	3.8	4.3
	3.2	3.7	4.2
	3.1	3.6	4.1
	3	3.5	4

Phase in with 9th Grade Class

Discussion

- PowerSchool will not accommodate a phase in due to how it processes GPAs for transcripts
- North Carolina did not phase in
- Student examples of why phasing in new scale could be problematic
- Scale will not be retroactive; it will impact grades going forward

How PowerSchool Determines GPA

1st

- Grades are entered in PowerSchool
- Grade Scale is determined by Course Section

2nd

- Grade Scale determines two values (weighted and unweighted quality points)
- Three values are permanently stored in PowerSchool (original grade and the two GPAs)

3rd

- Weighted and Unweighted GPAs are calculated “on the fly” and transferred to transcript
- Transcripts and GPAs are calculated when you make the request per what was stored

***Note:** Transcripts will denote that in the 2016-17 school year, the grading scale changed to a 10 point grading scale



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 15 or first day of school, convert to 10 pt scale
4. PowerSchool will store all grades and associated quality points going forward with the new grading scale.
5. 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

Discussion of Conversion Chart

Positive

- Presents least change to current conversion chart by minimally moving interval between each numeric average from .125 to .100
- Continues to reward students for higher averages in each grade range by issuing increasing quality points
- Should have less impact on LIFE- 4 Yr and Fellows scholarship because other factors of rank and ACT/SAT are still discriminators

Negative

- Raises the top end of the scale from 4.875 max on the CP column to 5.00 (creating more inflation)
- Doesn't reduce the granularity between each numeric value
- Will have the greatest impact on HOPE scholarships and Life 2 Year qualifiers if 3.0 is not raised
- 3.5 (Palmetto Fellows requirement) = 85/B

Discussions with Institutions of Higher Education

Commission on Higher Education

- Research & rationale for change (equity)
- Rigor
- Costs
- Timing
- Lottery Legislation

Discussion of Rigor

- Neither the old nor the new uniform grading scale addresses grade inflation because of the scale itself
- Weighting that occurs on the uniform grading scale for honors, AP, IB, and Dual Credit courses was not materially changed.
 - 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.

Implementing a 10 Point Scale in the Classroom

- Recalibrate Your Thinking
 - Grade range definitions
 - Classroom rubric changes
 - Course syllabus changes
- EOCEP Scores for high school will slide the scale from a 70 – D to a 60 – D (not lowering expectations to pass EOCs)

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 UGP



SCDE Implementation Plan

- Communication to district level leadership
- South Carolina Department of Education training with constituency groups
- Statewide faculty meeting for teachers (May 2, 2:30) - *video archive available*
- Dissemination of support materials
- Recommendations for communications with local boards, parents, students, and community members

Opportunities for Grading Scale Training

- Individual webinars from offices-Listservs
 - Instructional leaders to receive information by June 1 on Camtasia videos available to access all summer
 - PowerSchool PD provided via Camtasia videos available to access all summer
- SCASA i3 Summer Institute-June 19-22 for Secondary Principals
- Research to Practice-July 11-15 at River Bluff High School in Lexington One: Teachers
- Education Business Summit-June 26-29 in Greenville: CATE, Counselors, Gen Ed and Sped Teachers, Administrators
- Regional Trainings: TBA

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

Moving Forward

- At Superintendent Spearman's suggestion, the SCDE will
 - Work with CHE to co-chair committees to examine the impact of new scale on lottery scholarships
 - Discuss the viability of including new measures such as WorkKeys to Hope and/or Life scholarship levels

Discussion and Questions