
Uniform Grading Policy

The Background:

Public Chapter No. 679 directed the State Board of Education to establish a task force to make recommendations to the State Board by December 31, 2004, including, but not limited to the following:

- A. Consistent numerical breaks for letter grades.
- B. Considerations of standards to define an honors course.
- C. Appropriate weighting of courses.
- D. Determination of courses and weights to be used to calculate class rank.

The legislation also directed each school system to adopt and use the uniform grading scale to report student grades for the purpose of application for postsecondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

The Task Force on the High School developed a recommendation to the State Board of Education for a uniform grading scale as well as standards for honors and advanced placement courses and weightings for courses.

The sunset audit for the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) was conducted in 2013. The audit found that schools and districts were not consistent when calculating the grade point average. The audit also suggested that the State Board of Education provide additional clarifying language to improve the consistency of the calculation. Board staff and TSAC staff have collaborated along with the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS) and the Division of State Audit to develop the new language. The policy amendment replaces the existing policy in total. The language down to Implementation and Guidance is exactly parallel to the current rule for the uniform grading system. The new clarifying language begins with Implementation and guidance. Additionally, the amendment allows for weighting of Statewide Dual Credit Courses.

The Recommendation:

Staff recommends acceptance of the amended policy on first reading.