

# GRADING/ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS

Code **IKA-R** Issued **4/18**

## Grading Scales

### *Kindergarten*

Student progress in kindergarten is reported for all subjects using a Montessori or traditional-based approach.

### *Grades one, two, three, and four*

Student progress in grades one, two, three, and four is reported for all subjects using a Montessori or traditional-based approach.

### *Grades five through 12*

Student progress in grades five through 12 is reported for all subjects as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Average</b>
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	Below 60

## State Uniform Grading Scale (Grades Nine through 12)

Numerical breaks for letter grades, weightings for specified courses, and a conversion chart for computing grade point ratios follows.

<b>South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions</b>				
<b>Numerical Average</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>College Prep</b>	<b>Honors</b>	<b>AP/IB/Dual Credit</b>
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

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South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep	Honors	AP/IB/Dual Credit
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
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

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## Conversion Process

All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades for courses carrying Carnegie units. Transcripts and report cards will show course title and level/type of course taken. The grading scale must be printed on the report card.

When transcripts are received from accredited out-of-state schools (or in-state from accredited sources other than the public schools) 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 following equivalents will be used to transfer the grades into the student's record:

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 with a numerical average lower than 60, the average will be converted to a numerical grade of 65.

If the transcript shows that the student has earned a grade of "P" (passing) or "F" (failing), that grade will be converted to a numerical grade based upon information secured from the sending institution as to the approximate numerical value of the "P" or the "F."

If no numerical average can be obtained from the sending institution, the receiving school will calculate the student's cumulative transfer GPA and the corresponding number equivalent will be assigned to replace the "P."

If no numerical average can be obtained from the sending institution on the "F," the grade entered will be a 50.

The district will consider a student's transcript along with additional supporting evidence such as course syllabi, lesson plans, schedules, textbooks, or other instructional resources to validate course credits from homeschools.

For international students, the district will attempt to gather as much course information as possible from the sending school, including course syllabi, standards, end-of-course assessment results, or other instructional resources to determine the course credits that are the best match.

The district will allow a student to audit a course for no grade. The student must obtain permission before taking the class and must agree to follow all school and classroom attendance, behavior, participation, and course requirements. The course will be marked for "no credit" and "not included in GPA" at the student level. Students should not take the end-of-course examination in an audited class.

## End-of-Course Testing

In courses requiring state end-of-course testing, the district will apply the mandatory 20 percent weighting of the end-of-course test to the student's final grade. The student will be allowed to take the examination only once, at the end of the regular course duration and not at the end of an extended period granted through the credit recovery option. The school will treat students who repeat the course as though they were taking the course for the first time and all requirements will apply.

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## Honors Courses

Honors courses are intended for students exhibiting superior abilities in the particular course content area. The honors curriculum places emphasis on critical and analytical thinking, rational decision-making, and inductive and deductive reasoning. Honors courses should not encourage a student to graduate early but should extend course opportunities at the high school level.

The district may designate honors courses and give the assigned weighting under the following conditions:

- An honors course must have a curriculum that extends, accelerates, and enriches the College Preparatory (CP) course study in rigor, complexity, challenges, and creativity as outlined in the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*.
- Instructional practices for advanced learners must demonstrate appropriate differentiation that will enhance the delivery of instruction while strengthening the components outlined in the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*.
- Assessments must align with the honors level curriculum and instructional best practices, to include pre-assessment, formative assessment, and summative assessment.

One-half of a quality point (.5) will be added to the CP weighting for honors courses that meet all three criteria listed above. These criteria apply to all courses, including those offered online and in other nontraditional settings, as well as those recorded on a transcript from an out-of-state-school accredited under the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency. This is applicable even if the district does not offer the course being transferred.

## Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses

The following criteria apply to the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) courses and to International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, including those offered online and in other nontraditional settings, as well as those recorded on a transcript from an out-of-state-school accredited under the board of education of that state or the appropriate regional accrediting agency:

- Only AP or IB courses can be awarded a full quality point above the CP weighting. Seminar or support courses for AP or IB may be weighted as honors but not as AP or IB courses.
- An AP course can carry only one credit with the quality point above the CP weighting.
- A standard-level (SL) IB course can carry only one quality point weighting per course. However, two quality points of IB credit can be granted for higher-level (HL) courses in the IB program that require a minimum of 240 hours of instruction.

## Dual Credit Courses

Dual credit courses, whether the course is taken at the school site where the student is enrolled or at a post-secondary institution, are defined as those courses for which the student has received permission from his/her home school to earn both Carnegie units and college credits for those particular courses. One quality point will be added to the CP weighting for dual credit courses that are applicable to baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees, or certification programs that lead to an industry credential offered by accredited institutions.

College remediation and orientation classes for dual credit will be weighted as CP.

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All dual credit courses earned in South Carolina should be transcribed with the 1.0 quality point weight when the student transfers to a new school. Dual credit courses earned out of state may or may not carry quality point weightings. When a student transfers, the weight applied at the sending institution according to that state's regulations will be applied to the student's transcript. The district will not change the weight of a dual credit course to match South Carolina's process.

### Grade Point Averages (GPA)

The uniform grading scale and system for figuring GPA and class rank will apply to all courses carrying Carnegie units, including units earned at the middle/junior high school level.

As applicable, the district will recalculate GPAs already earned by students based on the three-decimal-point scale as outlined in this administrative rule.

Grade point averages will be figured uniformly in all schools using the following formula. The formula will yield each student's GPA which can then be ranked from highest to lowest rank in class. Computations will be rounded to the third decimal place as outlined in the state's uniform grading policy. All diploma candidates are included in the ranking.

$$\text{GPA} = \frac{\text{sum (quality points x units)}}{\text{sum of units attempted}}$$

The board will determine the criteria for determining honor graduates, to include valedictorian or salutatorian, and may establish earlier cutoffs (e.g., the seventh semester of high school, the third nine weeks of the senior year) when determining a rank for any local purpose. However, class rank for LIFE Scholarships is determined at the conclusion of the spring semester of the senior year.

### Course Withdrawals

With the first day of enrollment as the baseline, students who withdraw from a course within three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or 10 days in a 180-day course will do so without penalty.

Students who withdraw from a course after the specified time of three days in a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course, or 10 days in a 180-day course will be assigned a WF and the F (as a 50) will be calculated in the student's overall grade point average.

The three, five, and 10-day limitations for withdrawing from a course without penalty do not apply to course or course level changes approved by the administration of a school. Students who withdraw with administrative approval will be given a WP. The district will establish withdrawal limitations for distance learning courses.

Students who drop out of school or are expelled after the allowed period for withdrawal, but before the end of the grading period, will be assigned grades in accordance with the following:

- The student will receive a WP if he/she was passing the course. The grade of WP will carry no Carnegie units and no quality points to be factored into the student's GPA.
- The student will receive a WF if he/she was failing the course. The grade of WF will carry no Carnegie units but will be factored into the student's GPA as a 50.

If a student fails a course due to excessive absences and is unable to successfully make up the work or demonstrate proficiency in the course, the school will record an FA on his/her transcript. The grade of FA will carry no Carnegie units but will be factored into the student's GPA as a 50.

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## **Retaking Courses**

Students in grades nine through 12 may retake a course at the same level of difficulty if they earned a D or F in that course. The student's transcript will reflect all courses taken and the grades earned. However, only one course attempt and the highest grade earned for the course will be calculated in the GPA.

The student may retake the course either during the current school year or during the next school year but no later than the next school year. In addition, the student must retake the course before he/she has enrolled in the next sequential course (unless granted approval by the administration to do so).

A student who has taken a course for a Carnegie unit prior to his/her ninth-grade year may retake that course regardless of the grade earned. A student who retakes a high school credit course from middle school must complete it before the beginning of the second year of high school. In this case, only the highest grade will be used in figuring the student's GPA.

## **Graduation Honors Regulation**

### *Grade point average and class rank*

In an effort to maintain academic integrity and fairness to all students, final grade point averages used to determine official class rank will be calculated once all final grades for the year are recorded.

### *Honors recognition*

Based on grade point average through the 3rd quarter, students within the top ten of the class will be informed of the possibility they may serve at graduation as a Marshal or a commencement speaker. Final notification of Marshals and speakers will be provided just before graduation.

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