



Book	Board Policies
Section	5000 Students
Title	MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL DETERMINATION OF GRADES
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5421 - MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Philosophy

Columbus City School students will achieve academic mastery as defined by local, State, and national standards. Indicators of student mastery include: the ability to teach what they know, use content language, think critically and create new meaning. Students will have many opportunities to internalize and demonstrate their understanding of newly acquired information, skills, and processes that are tied to rigorous academic standards.

Grades will accurately reflect students learning and mastery in a course. Formative assessments, re-teaching and multiple opportunities to achieve mastery are foundational to effective teaching and learning. Teachers will use various assessments to evaluate the level of student performance and assign grades according to District policy. It is the responsibility of the administrators and teachers to thoroughly understand and communicate grading practices to students, parents, and the community.

Determination of Grades

Teachers should use a variety of ongoing, developmentally appropriate methods to measure student progress such as tests, exams, rubrics, quizzes, projects, reports, homework, and other assignments. Teachers should use their own professional judgment (within the District's defined parameters) in determining how much weight to give each graded assignment/category. Grades should be based on the individual student's mastery of standards, as defined by common core State standards and Ohio learning standards. Grades should not be determined by a bell curve. Academic grades should not be lowered as a result of unsatisfactory conduct except in cases of cheating, nor should they be increased on the basis of behavior.

Grading Measures

The following grading measures will be considered to calculate final grades for middle and high school students:

- A. classroom engagement
- B. projects, research papers, performance assessments
- C. homework
- D. classwork/labs
- E. quizzes
- F. tests

District made assessments may be calculated into interim, quarterly, or final grades, as test grades, at the teacher's discretion, with the exception of the 'beginning of year' (BOY) assessments which are not calculated into interim, quarterly or final grades.

There should be consistency within and among same grade level and/or content in each building.

The grading parameters shall be published to students and parents at the beginning of the school year or semester by the teacher for each course through the course expectations document or syllabus. Documentation of the published and distributed grading parameters will be maintained by the teacher until the last day for which grade changes may be requested at the District level.

Interim Grades

District middle and high schools will be encouraged to seek permission from the reform panel to communicate interims by reporting the students' current percentage at the time of entry in lieu of reporting satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Grade Determination Incl. +/- Scale For Quarter and Final Grades

The following academic grading scale shall be used in grades six through twelve for all courses and content areas:

GRADE	QUALITY POINT SCALE	AP/WEIGHTED SCALE
92 – 100 = A	4.000	5.000
90 – 91.99 = A-	3.700	4.625
88 – 89.99 = B+	3.300	4.125
82 – 87.99 = B	3.000	3.750
80 – 81.99 = B-	2.700	3.375
78 – 79.99 = C+	2.300	2.875
72 – 77.99 = C	2.000	2.500
70 – 71.99 = C-	1.700	2.120
68 – 69.99 = D+	1.300	1.625
62 – 67.99 = D	1.000	1.250
60 – 61.99 = D-	0.650	0.875
0 – 59.99 = F	0.000	0.000

AP/Weighted scale will be a weighted factor of 1.25.

Calculating Final Grade

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year and thereafter, final grades will be given based on the Final Grade Calculation Table below:

GRADE	QUALITY POINT SCALE	GRADE AP/WEIGHTED	AP/WEIGHTED SCALE
3.85 - 4.00 = A	4.000	4.812 - 5.000 = A	5.000
3.50 - 3.84 = A-	3.700	4.375 - 4.811 = A-	4.625
3.15 - 3.49 = B+	3.300	3.937 - 4.374 = B+	4.125
2.85 - 3.14 = B	3.000	3.562 - 3.936 = B	3.750
2.50 - 2.84 = B-	2.700	3.125 - 3.561 = B-	3.375
2.15 - 2.49 = C+	2.300	2.687 - 3.124 = C+	2.875
1.85 - 2.14 = C	2.000	2.312 - 2.686 = C	2.500
1.50 - 1.84 = C-	1.700	1.875 - 2.311 = C-	2.120
1.15 - 1.49 = D+	1.300	1.437 - 1.874 = D+	1.625
0.85 - 1.14 = D	1.000	1.062 - 1.436 = D	1.250
0.50 - 0.84 = D-	0.650	0.625 - 1.061 = D-	0.875
0.00 - 0.49 = F	0.000	0.000 - 0.624 = F	0.000

Classes Granting One (1) Credit or More

For a class granting one (1) or more credits, the final grade shall be calculated by first doubling and adding the quality points for each quarter's grade, and then adding those quality points and the quality points for the final exam grade. The total shall then be divided by nine (9). The final grade shall be determined by applying the resulting quality points to the above Final Grade Calculation scale. Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, a student must have a passing grade for two (2) or more grading periods or must pass one (1) grading period and the final examination in order to earn credit for the course.

The resulting quality point total must be within the range of the grade column of the Final Grade Calculation scale in order for the grade to be earned.

Classes Granting Fewer Than One (1) Credit

For a class granting less than one (1) credit for which a final exam is not given, the final grade shall be calculated by adding the quality points for each quarter's grade. The total shall then be divided by four (4). The final grade shall be determined by applying the resulting quality points to the above Final Grade Calculation scale.

For a class granting less than one (1) credit for which a final exam is given at the discretion of the teacher, the final grade shall be calculated by first doubling and adding the quality points for each quarter's grade, and then adding those quality points and the quality points for the final exam grade. The total shall then be divided by five (5). The final grade shall be determined by applying the resulting quality points to the above Final Grade Calculation scale.

The resulting quality point total must be within the range of the grade column in order for the grade to be earned.

Final Exams

All courses granting 1.0 high school credit or more, will administer a final exam. A final exam schedule will be published by the District and according to Ohio's student attendance requirements, exams will not be administered earlier than the scheduled dates. Seniors with an "A" average in a course may be exempted from a final exam, unless otherwise prohibited by State law.

All high school courses granting less than 1.0 credit that do not have a final exam administered at the discretion of the teacher and middle school courses, will have final grades calculated by averaging the four nine week's grades using the above academic grading scale.

Course Drops

For purposes of this policy, "penalty of grade" means a grade of "F" which will be counted as 0.0 in the student's overall high school grade point average and which will be reflected on the student's official transcript.

High school and middle school students enrolled in a semester course for high school credit may drop the course by the twenty-fifth (25th) day of the first grading period of the semester without penalty of grade.

High school and middle school students enrolled in a semester blocked course for high school credit may drop the course up to the thirteenth (13th) day of the first grading period of the semester without penalty of grade.

High school and middle school students enrolled in a year-long course for high school credit may drop the course by the end of the fortieth (40th) day of the first grading period of the course without penalty of grade.

Dropping a course should be a rare occurrence. The administrator, teacher, student and parent must be included in decisions regarding dropping a course and a parent or guardian shall be required to approve the course drop in writing.

Course Additions

High school and middle school students may enroll in a year-long course for high school credit up through the third Friday of the first grading period. High school and middle school students may enroll in a semester course for high school credit up until the second Friday of the semester. For blocked semester courses, students shall have until the second Wednesday of the semester to add a course for high school credit. Students shall not be permitted to enroll in a course after these deadlines have passed.

Graduating Senior Failing Grades

By the conclusion of each graduating senior's seventh (7th) semester of their high school career, or the equivalent thereof, the principal, or principal's designee, shall make reasonable efforts to establish personal contact with the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any senior whose performance indicates that the student may not be eligible to graduate at the end of second semester. Documentation of notification to parent(s) or guardian(s) shall be maintained by the school.

Incomplete Grades – Quarterly and Final

At the conclusion of a grading period for a semester-based or year-long course, with the approval of the principal, teachers may give students who are absent for extended periods of time an "incomplete" grade (I) for documented excused absences that are in alignment to policy 5215 Student Attendance. The student will be given the opportunity to make up the work and have the incomplete grade changed to a standard grade in accordance with the District's grading scale set forth in this policy. The amount of time given to the student to make up the work will equal the number of days the student has been absent from the class. Any work not made up as provided herein will be recorded as failing and the final course grade will be calculated accordingly. For the purposes of Ohio High School Athletic Association athletic eligibility, a grade of Incomplete will be calculated as 0.0 in the quarterly grade point average.

Repeat Courses

With the approval of the Principal, a student may repeat a Columbus City Schools course in order to raise his/her grade. Both grades received shall be entered on the student's transcript, but the student shall receive credit only once for taking the course. The highest grade received shall be used in determining the student's overall grade point average.

Student Withdrawal

Students withdrawing from a District school shall be given the letter grade they have earned in each subject up to the date of the withdrawal. Credit will not be granted unless the course has been completed prior to withdrawing from the school.

Test Preparation Coursework

Assignment of letter grades (A-F) for test preparation coursework is difficult as students may demonstrate progress towards mastery, but not mastery in and of itself. Therefore, students engaged in test preparation coursework for Ohio's assessments and/or college test preparation will be graded using a "Pass/Fail Grading Scale". Similar to the grading scale outlined in this policy/document, students must complete sixty percent (60%) of the coursework and demonstrate progress for a grade of "P". A P/F course shall not count in the calculation of a student's GPA.

Transfer Grades

Students transferring from another school system or private school shall be given the quarter/semester grade the sending school indicates. The student's final grade is determined by combining the transferred quarter or semester grades and the grades earned in the District's school according to the guidelines provided in this document. If the transferring school is not on the quarter/semester system, the Superintendent's designee will calculate the weight of the grading periods' grades given by the transferring district. All transfer credits and final grades will be reported on the student's record and transcript according to the scale and GPA calculations of the transferring district.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

High schools shall determine the basis for determining a senior class valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s). The factors for determining class valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s) shall be published in the school's student handbook at the time the students enter their freshmen year.

Effective 11/17/15