

Board Policy IHA: Grading Systems

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: Pending

The City Schools of Decatur Board of Education is committed to ensuring all students receive a comprehensive and equitable education. They further recognize the need for the regular assessment of and feedback on each student's academic performance. To this end, the superintendent shall implement and maintain a district system for grading that is consistent and designed to support the success of each individual student in a rigorous instructional program.

The purpose of grades in City Schools of Decatur is to provide timely feedback to students and families about how each student is progressing towards mastery of standards. Academic grades in CSD shall reflect student mastery of state standards and shall not include behavioral factors. The Superintendent shall also establish a separate evaluation of non-academic factors, such as behavior and attendance.

Teachers shall evaluate student progress, report grades that represent the student's academic achievement, and communicate official academic progress to students and parents in a timely manner through the electronic grading portal.

K-5 Grading:

In grades K-5, City Schools of Decatur uses a 4-point grading scale:

4 Distinguished Learner

3 Proficient Learner

2 Developing Learner

1 Beginning Learner

INC Insufficient Evidence to Assess Mastery

Distinguished Learners demonstrate **advanced proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are **well prepared** for future learning.

Proficient Learners demonstrate **proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students are **prepared** for future learning. **This group also represents approaching distinguished.*

Developing Learners demonstrate **partial proficiency** in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students **need additional academic support** to ensure success in future learning. **This group also represents approaching proficiency.*

Beginning Learners do not yet demonstrate proficiency in the knowledge and skills necessary at this grade level/course of learning, as specified in Georgia's content standards. The students **need substantial academic support** to ensure success in future learning. **This group also represents approaching developing.*

Grades 6-12:

The following grading system shall be used in the City Schools of Decatur for grades 6-12:

A 90-100 Distinguished mastery of state standards

B 80-89 Proficient mastery of state standards

C 70-79 Developing mastery of state standards

D 60-69 Beginning mastery of state standards

F Below 60 No evidence of mastery of state standards

INC Insufficient Evidence to Assess Mastery

Effective 2023-2024, End of Course Assessments will contribute towards at least 10% of a student's final numeric grade as defined in the State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-.13. Middle school students completing an EOC

course must take the EOC regardless of whether they are receiving high school credit. Students enrolling from non-accredited programs are required to take and pass the EOC prior to receiving credit for the course.

High School Grade Point Averages:

In acknowledgment of the additional effort expected from students who choose to pursue advanced coursework, extra bonus points are awarded to their Grade Point Average (GPA) for each such course successfully completed. Advanced coursework often encompasses a diverse range of programs, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Enrollment or other honors and specialized tracks. Each of these programs may have unique grading and assessment standards tailored to their distinct curricular goals and objectives. An extra bonus point (1.0) shall be awarded to the GPA of students who successfully complete IB, AP, or Dual Enrollment courses. An additional half point (0.5) shall be awarded to the GPA of students who successfully complete honors courses.

When advanced coursework introduces additional grade reporting criteria, it is incumbent upon the local school to provide clear communication about the specific grade reporting criteria associated with the advanced coursework to both students and their parents or guardians.

The weighted numeric grade point average shall be calculated based on all numeric grades earned in grade levels 9-12, including grades for all AP courses, IB courses (Diploma and Career Programme), and Dual Enrollment (state-funded or self-pay) courses taken at an accredited post-secondary institution. Grades earned for qualifying high school courses taken at the middle-school level shall be included on the transcript, but shall not be factored into the weighted numeric grade-point average for class ranking purposes.

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Unweighted GPA	Honors Weighted GPA	Weighted GPA (IB/AP/DE)
A	90-100	4.0	4.5	5.0
B	80-89	3.0	3.5	4.0
C	70-79	2.0	2.5	3.0
F	Below 70	0.0	0.0	0.0

Multiple Assessment Opportunities and Retakes

In an educational environment that values continuous improvement and recognizes that students may not always meet the established standards initially, it is essential to provide ample opportunities for them to show mastery and exhibit substantial growth in their learning over time. In line with this commitment to student success, all educators within the City Schools of Decatur shall offer some form of retake or remediation opportunity for each educational standard not mastered.

- Parents and students should be informed when retake opportunities are available and when updated scores will be posted.
- Explicit reteaching support should be provided.
- Students should be afforded the opportunity for, at a minimum, one retake on standards not mastered (unless otherwise provided for through a student’s 504 Plan or IEP).
- The highest score will be recorded when a retake is given; previous scores should not be deleted for record-keeping purposes.
- The lower scores will be dropped from the final grade calculation.

IB Middle Years Programme Grading

Student grades will be reported on the CSD 0-100 traditional grading scale. Schools participating in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP) shall also evaluate students on MYP criterion. MYP teachers in grades 6-10 will report on the MYP criterion for each course separately, twice a year.

IB Diploma Programme Grading

Students enrolled in International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) courses will have grades reported on the 0-100 traditional grading scale. IB DP courses may include assignments graded using IB rubrics, which uses a marking scale from 7 (excellent) to 1 (minimal). Grades for assignments scored using IB (DP) rubrics may be factored into the traditional grade average as outlined in course syllabi.

In the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP), students demonstrate learning through formal, IB-required assessments. These assessments are comprised of Internal Assessments (IAs) and external assessments (exams) which result in final IB marks ranging from 1 (low) to 7 (high). Official IB DP scores are tabulated and sent to schools and families directly from the IBO.

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Note: To access the policy references, click here [State of Georgia Terms and Conditions](#) (<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/amlgTZiB9plushNjl6WXhfiOQ==>) and close the LexisNexis tab, which will return you to the policy. Click on the links below to be taken to each specific code. **You should only have to do this one time per session.**

State References

Description

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0157	Uniform reporting system for certain purposes; dual credit courses; academic eligibility requirements to receive HOPE scholarship - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/zpdxBJB1FHmY4qZbhBCxg==
O.C.G.A. 20-02-0989.20	Grade Integrity - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/PTcgr2Zr6U5AbHYdjjvOcA==
O.C.G.A. 20-03-0496	Definitions. Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Scholarship Program. - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/G5xmGywslsh9tltsgElzVMYjg==
O.C.G.A. 20-03-0497	Establishment of REACH scholarship; student requirements. - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/slshkvlKi2JkmaENjdzvBt5IA==
O.C.G.A. 20-17-0002	Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/9kztpASKnGZZybxwYDXhfQ==
Rule 160-4-2-.13	Statewide Passing Score - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/tMAqccGAwajsEvD8QjLvHA==
Rule 160-5-1-.15	Awarding Units of Credit and Acceptance of Transfer Credit and/or Grades - https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/OI8MfyWF11I8EmMxXP9kg==