

Course Naming and GPA Proposal

Defining the Issues:

1. Transcript Transparency:

The current way we name our high school courses often causes confusion for students, parents, as well as for college admissions offices reading our transcript. The course names do not adequately convey information about the courses that colleges and employers want to know unless they consult a key or separate explanation. We want to be transparent and clear about the rigor level, GPA weighting of the course, and the sequence of courses.

Here are some examples of the confusing nature of our course names:

- The first number listed in course names is supposed to indicate the year in which the course is taken, (e.g. English 21 and 22 are taken sophomore year). However, all our freshmen take Biology 21 and 22 and many take Geometry 21.
- The second number in course names indicates the rigor level, so honors is "Level 1" and college prep is "Level 2." So, English 11 in Fairfield is a freshman honors course. For most high schools, however, something called English 11 would be something taken in junior year (as in Grade 11).
- We have two levels of PreCalculus (41 and 40), which are technically two different levels of rigor. However, they are both are weighted as honors courses, but only for for grades C and above.
- Electives such as Baking and Pastry 20 and Wood 10 are weighted at a higher level than college prep U.S. History 32 and Chemistry 32 with grades of C and above.
- A class called "Introduction to Studio Art" can only be taken if students take three prerequisites, even though the course has "Introduction" in the title. We also had a course called "Advanced Advertising" but no course called "Advertising."

2. Reconciling the rigor level of the course with the GPA weighting:

We currently assign GPA weighting at four levels:

-Level 2 (College Prep) uses a basic 4.0 scale where the grade of A=4.0, B=3.0, etc.

-Level 1 (Honors) applies a .33 bump up in weighting, where A=4.33 and B=3.33 etc.

-Advanced Placement (AP) applies a .67 bump up in weighting, where an A=4.67, B=3.67 etc.

-Level 0 (heterogeneously grouped) uses the same GPA weighting as Level 1 for grades at C and above, and the same GPA weighting as Level 2 for grades C- and below. Many of our elective courses are weighted at Level 0, along with a number of junior and senior core area electives. This was initially developed to ensure students would enroll in electives and not be worried their GPA's would be lowered.

We see Level 0 as difficult to explain and problematic.

See the chart on next page for the full GPA weighting scale:

Current GPA Scale:

GRADE	AP	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 0	LEVEL 2
A+	5.00	4.67	4.67	4.33
A	4.67	4.33	4.33	4.00
A-	4.33	4.00	4.00	3.67
B+	4.00	3.67	3.67	3.33
B	3.67	3.33	3.33	3.00
B-	3.33	3.00	3.00	2.67
C+	3.00	2.67	2.67	2.33
C	2.67	2.33	2.33	2.00
C-	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.67
D+	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.33
D	1.67	1.33	1.00	1.00
D-	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.67
F	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Objectives and Guiding Principles:

1. Provide transparency and clarity on the transcript for Fairfield Public Schools graduates.
2. Create course names that clearly indicate sequence of courses as well as rigor level.
3. Remove the previous number system in course names that caused confusion (Examples: English **11**, US History **32**, Baking and Pastry **20**.)
4. Establish more consistency to naming approaches across departments.
5. Remove the Level 0 GPA weighting, which assigns Level 1 (honors) GPA weight to “unleveled” classes for grades at a “C” and above; and Level 2 (College Prep) weighting to grades “C-” and below.
6. Re-assign courses to GPA weighting scale to more accurately reflect rigor levels. (*e.g. Rectify the fact that introductory electives such as Culinary 10 have a higher GPA weight than College Prep U.S. History*).
7. Minimize the impact of course re-assignment on overall GPA calculation.
8. Change names immediately to gain positive impact of transparency but roll GPA changes out slowly.

Teachers, counselors, and administrators met over the course of 2017-18 to establish the guiding principles above and review several proposals. Members included: Caryn Campbell, Cristina Caron, Heather Delsole, David Ebling, Steve Fekete, Greg Hatzis, Michelle Hermsen, Dawn Jara, Victoria Jenkins, Danielle Jurkiewicz, Rachel Keleher, Jodi Kostbar, Kathleen Mason, John McCandless, Vanessa Montorsi, Karen Mortali, Elizabeth Muller, Elisa Polonio, Katie Poole, Gregg Pugliese, Paul Rasmussen.

Background Research:

I. What do colleges do with the GPA we report to them?

We report a single weighted GPA, based on the weights from the Table on page 2.

We sent a survey to colleges, and 164 colleges responded.

Summary:

- A minority of colleges surveyed (38%) consider a student's GPA at face value.
- 62% use some other system, many of which indicate they use the college's or university's own scoring system. For example:
 - "Recalculate GPA on unweighted, 4.0 scale using all courses elected in 9th - 11th grade" - University of Michigan
 - "High schools that provide a GPA on a 4.0 scale we use that number if it's weighted otherwise we recalculate. We prefer a 4.0 scale" - University of Delaware
 - "Re-weight GPA using own scoring system, Only count academic classes, In summary, we recalculate only core classes on a 4.0 scale and remove the weight from AP/IB/Honors courses" -University of Richmond
- **For full results and survey question, see Appendix A.**

II. What do other high schools do for GPA weighting?

We researched how other high schools in DRG A and B applied weights to their GPAs.

Summary:

- A wide number of approaches exist.
- Almost all schools provide added weight to Honors and AP levels; a very small number use an unweighted, single GPA scale solely.
- No other schools provide added weight to elective courses. Some schools weigh their elective courses below all their academic courses.
- Many schools report an Unweighted GPA and a Weighted GPA.
- **For full results, see Appendix B.**

Proposal

1. For course names, we applied the following conventions:

- A. Removal of our traditional use of numbers to indicate sequence and rigor.
- B. Use of sequence terms like Introduction, Intermediate, and Advanced, or Roman numerals to indicate sequence (e.g. I, II, III, IV, V).
- C. Use of arabic numerals to indicate grade level: "English 10" would mean 10th grade English, Health 12 would indicate 12th grade Health.
- D. Use an "H" to indicate honors courses and "AP" for Advanced Placement courses. All other courses would simply be listed with their course name, indicating there is no added GPA weight.

An entire list of course name changes is provided in Appendix C.

2. GPA Scale revisions:

- A. Use only three scales for GPA weighting: AP, Honors, and College Prep
- B. Convert all level 0 courses to either College Prep (non-Core* electives) or to Honors (most core* electives). We no longer need Level 0 to entice students to enroll in electives.
- C. Increase the weight of Honors and AP courses to compensate for drop in GPA weight of non-core electives. See table below. College Prep will remain on a 4.0 scale, and AP will receive a 1.0 bump and Honors will receive a .5 bump.
- D. Report on Unweighted and Weighted GPA scales on college transcripts so students have a clear sense of how they are being evaluated by college admissions offices.

*Core classes = English, Social Studies, Math, Science, and World Language

Proposed New GPA Scale

GRADE	AP	H	CP
A+	5.33	4.83	4.33
A	5.00	4.50	4.00
A-	4.67	4.17	3.67
B+	4.33	3.83	3.33
B	4.00	3.50	3.00
B-	3.67	3.17	2.67
C+	3.33	2.83	2.33
C	3.00	2.50	2.00
C-	2.67	2.17	1.67
D+	2.33	1.83	1.33
D	2.00	1.50	1.00
D-	1.67	1.17	0.67
F	0	0	0

This table is based on a 4.0 scale for College Prep level courses and a 5.0 scale for Advanced Placement. This practice is consistent with other DRG A and DRG B schools. Colleges are also very familiar with these scales.

Per Board Policy 6146.11, this weighting scale must be approved by the Board of Education.

Background Research

In this table, we compare the GPAs of 7 typical students, with a wide range of rigor levels and achievement levels. The types of courses they took are listed in Column 2.

Column 4 represents what an unweighted GPA would look like in comparison to the weighted GPA.

1	2	3	4	5
		GPA in current system	GPA Unweighted all classes	Delta
Student 1: high rigor, hi achieve	8 AP; 13 H; 0 CP 4 elect	4.52	4.08	-.44
Student 2: med/hi rigor	3 AP; 15 H; 2 CP; 4 elect	4.03	3.71	-.32
Student 3: med rigor	2 AP; 9 H; 7 CP; 4 elect	3.76	3.48	-.28
Student 4: med/low rigor; avg. grades	0 AP; 9 H; 13 CP; 8 elect	3.24	3.08	-.16
Student 5: med/low rigor; avg grades; SpEd services	0 AP; 9 H; 13 CP; 6 elect	2.86	2.70	-.16
Student 6: low rigor; good grades; SpEd services;	1 AP; 6 H; 13 CP; 3 elect	3.35	3.17	-.18
Student 7: low rigor; low achievement	0 AP; 5 H; 15 CP; 9 elct	2.33	2.16	-.17

It is expected that we see large differences here, as there is no added weight applied to any courses.

In these examples, for the same 7 students

- GPA stayed at current weights for AP, H, and CP
- Column 1 is the current GPA
- Column 2, shows all non-core Level 0 courses (like art, tech ed, FCS) converted CP weight and core electives (Civics, Forensics, Satire) to H weight. All courses are included in the calculation
- Column 4 shows the same Level 0 adjustments with non-core electives removed from the calculation.

	1	2	3	4	5
	GPA in current system	Current GPA, all courses; Level 0 adjustments	Delta to current GPA	Current GPA, Level 0 adjustments, electives removed	Delta to current GPA
Student 1: high rigor, hi achieve	4.52	4.47	-.05	4.56	.04
Student 2: med/hi rigor	4.03	3.93	-.10	3.98	-.05
Student 3: med rigor	3.76	3.68	-.08	3.61	-.15
Student 4: med/low rigor; avg. grades	3.24	3.14	-.10	3.10	-.14
Student 5: med/low rigor; avg grades; SpEd services	2.86	2.79	-.07	2.68	-.18
Student 6: low rigor; good grades; SpEd services;	3.35	3.29	-.06	3.12	-.23
Student 7: low rigor; low achievement	2.33	2.26	-.07	1.42	-.91
Average difference:			-.08		-.23

In these examples, for the same 7 students

- The new GPA weights applied as described in the table on page 4:
 - 4.0 scale for CP classes
 - .5 bump for Honors
 - 1.0 bump for Advanced Placement
 - but with the added bump for H and AP - as highlighted in the table on page 4.
- Column 1 is the current GPA
- Column 2, shows all non-core Level 0 courses (like art, tech ed, FCS) converted CP weight and core electives (Civics, Forensics, Satire) to H weight. All courses are included in the calculation.
- Column 4 shows the same Level 0 adjustments with non-core electives removed

	1	2	3	4	5
	GPA in current system	Bumped GPA; all courses included, Level 0 adjustments*	Delta* to current GPA	Bumped GPA; Level 0 adjustments, non core removed	Delta to current GPA
Student 1: high rigor, hi achieve	4.52	4.66	.14	4.78	.26
Student 2: med/hi rigor	4.03	4.13	.10	4.17	.14
Student 3: med rigor	3.76	3.78	.02	3.71	-.05
Student 4: med/low rigor; avg. grades	3.24	3.20	-.04	3.16	-.08
Student 5: med/low rigor; avg grades; SpEd services	2.86	2.84	-.02	2.72	-.14
Student 6: low rigor; good grades; SpEd services;	3.35	3.34	-.01	3.18	-.17
Student 7: low rigor; low achievement	2.33	2.27	-.06	1.47	-.86
Average difference			+.02		-.13

*These results represent the approach that most closely meet the guidelines listed earlier related to GPA:

5. Remove the Level 0 GPA weighting, which assigns Level 1 (honors) GPA weight to “unleveled” classes for grades at a “C” and above; and Level 2 (College Prep) weighting to grades “C-” and below.
6. Re-assign courses to GPA weighting scale to more accurately reflect rigor levels. (e.g. Rectify the fact that introductory electives such as Culinary 10 have a higher GPA weight than College Prep U.S. History)
7. Minimize the impact of course re-assignment on overall GPA calculation

Conclusion:

The High School Administrative team is recommending the changes highlighted on page 4 in the section called "Proposal" to meet our objectives and guiding principles listed on page 2.

The High School Administrative team is seeking Board of Education approval for the following weighting scale:

GRADE	AP	H	CP
A+	5.33	4.83	4.33
A	5.00	4.50	4.00
A-	4.67	4.17	3.67
B+	4.33	3.83	3.33
B	4.00	3.50	3.00
B-	3.67	3.17	2.67
C+	3.33	2.83	2.33
C	3.00	2.50	2.00
C-	2.67	2.17	1.67
D+	2.33	1.83	1.33
D	2.00	1.50	1.00
D-	1.67	1.17	0.67
F	0	0	0

Projected Roll out:

For the 2019-20 school year, we would:

- A. Apply all course name changes to gain benefit for transparency and understanding
- B. Only apply the NEW GPA scale to following freshmen classes, in line with the new graduation requirements:
English 9 H, English 9, Global Studies H, Global Studies, Biology H, Biology, Algebra I, Geometry H, and Geometry
- C. All other courses, including all elective and world language courses would not change

For the 2020-21 school year we would apply the new GPA scale to all courses.

Appendix A:
What do colleges do with the GPA we report to them?

What colleges and universities do with a high school GPA.

Fairfield Public Schools is looking to possibly update our GPA weighting system. Before we move forward with any decisions, we would like to know what colleges and universities do with a high school GPA. We would greatly appreciate you taking this two question survey so we can make the best decision for our students. Thank you!

* Required

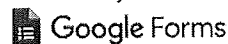
1. What does your college or university do with our GPA when evaluating a student for possible admission? *

Check all that apply.

- Take GPA at face value
- Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
- Only count academic classes
- Other: _____

2. Name of your college/university:

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Name of your college/university:	What does your college or university do with our GPA when evaluating a student for possible admission?
Adelphi University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Albright College	Recalculate GPA, on a 4.0/100 scale, with academic courses only.
American University	Take GPA at face value
Amherst College	Take GPA at face value, Only count academic classes
Assumption College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Babson College	We consider grades in courses as well as rigor in courses simultaneously, but do not re-weight or re-calculate GPA.
Bentley University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Bowdoin College	Take GPA at face value
Brandeis University	Take GPA at face value
Brown University	Take GPA at face value, Brown just takes whatever type of GPA you send us at face value, no recalculating. However, we look at much more than just the GPA so we're really taking into consideration every class a student has chosen to take and how well they've done in each class. I hope this helps!
Brown University	We look at whatever GPA the school gives us but we're also looking much more closely at the transcript to see specifically which classes a student chose in each core academic area in comparison to what is offered and the specific grade in each course.
Bucknell	We calculate an unweighted GPA after the student has enrolled.
Butler University	Take GPA at face value
California College of the Arts	Only count academic classes, We recalculate the GPA removing gym, health, music, and drivers ed.
Canisius College	Take GPA at face value
Central Connecticut State University	It depends on the school and the reported weighting system. Typically we take the weighted GPA at face value if on a 4.0 scale. If not, we will recalculate it.
Champlain College	Take GPA at face value, We will recalculate it back to a 4.0 scale if necessary
Chapman University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Clark university	We either use given unweighted GPA or recalculate to find unweighted GPA if none is given
Clarkson University	Only count academic classes
Colby-Sawyer College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, We recalculate all students GPA's based on a 4.0 scale and look at how a school weights their different level of courses
Colgate University	Calculate unweighted GPA on 4.0 scale (A+ = 4.3, A=4.0) using only academic classes
College of Charleston	Take GPA at face value
College of the Holy Cross	Take GPA at face value
Cornell University	Take GPA at face value, We do not recalculate GPA for students in our review process at Cornell. We like to see that students have taken advantage of the most rigorous curriculum available at their high school, and then consider their record in context of their high school. Their marks in key indicator courses for the College that they are applying to is considered with more weight than their overall GPA.
Curry College	Take GPA at face value, If not on a 4.0 we will recalculate
Dartmouth College	Take GPA at face value
Denison University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
DePaul University	If the GPA is on anything other than a 4.0=A scale, we will recalculate but will take all weight into account.
Dickinson College	Take GPA at face value, Students are evaluated within the context of their schools. We do not recalculate GPAs.
Duquesne University	Take GPA at face value
Earlham College	we note both school-reported GPA, and recalculate using only core academic classes
Eastern Connecticut State University	Take GPA at face value, When a student applies test-optional we recalculate the students GPA, only counting academic courses
Eckerd College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Elon University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Take GPA at face value
Emmanuel College Boston, MA	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Emory University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Fairfield University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Fairleigh Dickinson University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system

FIDM/Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising	Take GPA at face value
Florida Southern College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Fordham University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Franklin Pierce University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Take GPA at face value, Gateway CC practices open enrollment. If one of our selective majors will consider high school GPA that will be done on face value.
Gettysburg College	Take GPA at face value
Gonzaga University	We unweight all weighted GPAs and put every students on a 4.0 scale. When we do that we include all classes. The curriculum assessment in our review process benefits students with advanced coursework that is often weighted by their high schools.
Goucher College	Only count academic classes, We recalculate GPA based on school's unweighted grading scale of core academic classes.
Hamilton College	Take GPA at face value
Hampshire College	We take GPAs at face value, but we don't give them much consideration--instead, we take a close look at the trends in grades, and level of classes a student has taken.
Hartwick College	We use weighted GPA unless the weighted GPA is over 4% above the unweighted GPA
Harvey Mudd College	Take GPA at face value
Haverford College	Take GPA at face value
High Point University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Hope College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Housatonic Community College	gpa is not considered at our two-year college.
Indiana University-Bloomington	Take GPA at face value
Iona College	Typically we take the GPA based on the weight of the school, but when it's not on a 4.0 scale we recalculate it.
James Madison University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
John Carroll University	Take GPA at face value, Take GPA at face value THEN subjectively evaluate rigor of curriculum
Lafayette College	We recalculate an unweighted GPA for every applicant and account for a student's curriculum separately.
Le Moyne College	Take GPA at face value, Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, If a GPA is on a 5.0 scale or anything other than a traditional 4.0 scale we recalculate on a traditional 4.0 scale. Also, we take both unweighted and weighted GPAs so we take the higher between the two.
Lehigh University	We recalcuate if a GPA scale is over 5.0
Lewis & Clark College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Lincoln Technical/Culinary Institute	We don't use GPA. HS diploma and 12 minute assesment are required
Loyola Chicago University	Convert all GPAs to 4.0 scale (mostly by cross multiplying), include any weighted values in the process
Loyola University Maryland	Take GPA at face value
Loyola University New Orleans	Take GPA at face value
Lynchburg College	Take GPA at face value
Lynn University	Take GPA at face value
Macalester College	Take GPA at face value, Only count academic classes, We look at the GPA you provide but also look at the rigor of courses students have taken and how they have performed in individual courses.
Manhattan College	We consider the weighted GPA within reason. If the GPA is heavily weighted we will refer to the unweighted GPA.
Manhattanville College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Marist College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Marymount Manhattan College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
McGill University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Mercy College	Take GPA at face value
Merrimack College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system

Middlebury College	Take GPA at face value
Monmouth University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Montclair State University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Mount Holyoke College	Take GPA at face value
NC State University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
New Haven	Take GPA at face value, Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Both. Face value if weighting isn't extremely out of whack (30% for AP classes for example). All courses counted and unweighted 4.0 gpa used to check school weight. Student gets the benefit of the doubt.
Nichols College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Northeastern University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Northwestern	Take GPA at face value
Ohio Wesleyan University	Take GPA at face value
Paul Mitchell the School Danbury	Take GPA at face value
Pomona College	We look at weighted GPAs that include grades in all courses
Post University	Take GPA at face value if on 4.0 scale. If not on 4.0 scale, we convert the student's GPA to a 4.0 scale.
Regis University	Take GPA at face value
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Take GPA at face value
Roanoke College	Only count academic classes
Rochester Institute of Technology	Use GPA that benefits the student if provided.
Roger Williams University	Take GPA at face value
Rollins College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes, we unweight GPAs and look at the 5 core classes
Saint Joseph's College (ME)	Take GPA at face value, Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, If GPA is on a 4.0 scale (weighted or unweighted) we will take whichever is in best interest of student. If GPA is on scale other than 4.0, we will recalculate to a 4.0.
Saint Michael's College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Santa Clara University	Recalculate the GPA to a unweighted 4.0 scale and give a ranking/score for course rigor separately GPA at face value for Merit Scholarships / Count academic classes for entry to particular admissions programs of study
Siena College	Only count academic classes
Simmons College	Only count academic classes
SMU	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Springfield College	Take the GPA at face value if it's on a 4.0 weighted scale. Otherwise, we recalculate it on a weighted 4.0 scale.
St. John's University-Queens, Staten Island, and Manhattan Campuses	Take GPA at face value
St. Lawrence University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
St. Mary's College of MD	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Stetson University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Stevens Institute of Technology	Take GPA at face value
Stonehill College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes, Re calc onto a 4.0 unweighted scale in the core academic areas, and give students a strength of curriculum based on the number of AP/Honors/College Credit/ IB classes they have taken
SUNY GENESEO	Take GPA at face value
SUNY Potsdam	Take GPA at face value
Swarthmore College	We consider the GPA within any context provided by the school report and counselor/teacher letters. We don't recalculate GPAs, but this helps us to understand rigor and grading scales
Syracuse University	Take GPA at face value
Texas Christian University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes

The Catholic University of America	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
The College of New Jersey	Take GPA at face value, We use the weighted GPA and look closely at school profile
The College of Saint Rose	If your reported GPA is unweighted and does not provide the weighted, we add weight for Honors and AP courses.
The New School	Review un-weighted GPAs only.
The New School	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, We typically use unweighted if calculated by the school and accurate; otherwise, we recalculate using all courses taken, including F and W/F.
The University of Alabama	Take GPA at face value, Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only recalculate when the GPA is on a 100 point scale and not a 4.0 scale.
The University of Chicago	Take GPA at face value
The University of Edinburgh	Our Admissions Offices mainly review standardised testing, GPA is only assessed if our Admission Offices require additional information
Towson University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
UArts	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Union College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
University at Buffalo (SUNY)	We will look at the weighted GPA but also the rigor of classes, how many math or science/ core classes have taken over the years. When provided we look at class rank and the school profile. There are many factors that we look at when assessing a high school transcript.
University at Buffalo-SUNY	Take GPA at face value
University of Colorado Boulder	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
University of Dayton	Take GPA at face value
University of Delaware	High schools that provide a GPA on a 4.0 scale we use that number if it's weighted otherwise we recalculate. We prefer a 4.0 scale
University of Hartford	Only recalculate if it is not a 4.0 scale (prefer weighted GPA)
University of Maine	If the school reports a GPA on a 4.0 scale we use this GPA, otherwise we recalculate the GPA to a 4.0
University of Maine at Farmington	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
University of Maryland College Park	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes, Re-weight to a 5 point scale, giving credit for Honors, AP, IB and College Courses
University of Michigan	Recalculate GPA on unweighted, 4.0 scale using all courses elected in 9th - 11th grade
University of New England	If a school lists and labels an unweighted GPA on a 4.0 scale (A+ and A = 4.0), we will take it at face value. Otherwise we recalculate to an unweighted 4.0 scale. If the school provides grading scales (number to letter, and letter to 4.0), we will use your scale to keep the grades as consistent for the student as possible.
University of New Hampshire	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
University of Notre Dame	Take GPA at face value
University of Pittsburgh	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
University of Richmond	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes, In summary, we recalculate only core classes on a 4.0 scale and remove the weight from AP/IB/Honors courses
University of Saint Joseph	Take GPA at face value
University of San Diego	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
University of San Francisco	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
University of South Carolina	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
University of Southern California	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
University of St Andrews	We assess GPA from relevant classes only (relevant to the course the student has applied for)
University of St Andrews	We look at classes specifically related to the degree that was applied for and use the school profile to understand the rigour of what the student chose to study.
University of Tampa	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
University of Toronto	Take GPA at face value, Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, We consider both a weighted and unweighted GPA

University of Virginia	Take GPA at face value
Villanova University	Take GPA at face value
Wake Forest University	Take GPA at face value
Washington University in St. Louis	Take GPA at face value, Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes, If we receive a weighted GPA from the HS, we will use that! If it is unweighted, we will often calculate our own GPA taking into consideration weighted courses such as AP/honors/IB.
Western New England University	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system, Only count academic classes
Wheaton College MA	We recalculate all GPA's to be on a 4.0 scale
Whitman College	Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Take GPA at face value
Xavier University	Take GPA at face value
Did Not Answer	look at weighted GPA, use chart provided as context when assessing where student falls in class
Did Not Answer	Take GPA at face value
Did Not Answer	Take GPA at face value
Did Not Answer	Take GPA at face value
Did Not Answer	Take GPA at face value, Only count academic classes
Did Not Answer	Take GPA at face value, Re-weight GPA using the college's or university's own scoring system
Did Not Answer	Take weighted GPA into account but look at what classes students are taking rigor in.
Did Not Answer	Use weighted GPA , use chart provided as context.

Appendix B:
GPA scales of DRG A and DRB B schools

The names on the level categories may have been altered to create consistency in comparing other districts to Fairfield. Wherever possible, we used “AP,” “Honors,” and “College Prep” for categories that were similar to ours.

District	A or B	Grade	AP/Honors	College Prep			
Weston	A	A+	5.00	4.34			
		A	4.67	4.00			
		A-	4.34	3.67			
		B+	4.00	3.34			
		B	3.67	3.00			
		B-	3.34	2.67			
		C+	3.00	2.34			
		C	2.67	2.00			
		C-	2.34	1.67			
		D+	2.00	1.34			
		D	1.67	1.00			
		D-	1.34	0.67			
District	A or B	Grade	AP/Honors	College Prep			
Granby	B	A+	4.60	4.30			
		A	4.30	4.00			
		A-	4.00	3.70			
		B+	3.70	3.30			
		B	3.30	3.00			
		B-	3.00	2.70			
		C+	2.70	2.30			
		C	2.30	2.00			
		C-	2.00	1.70			
		D+	1.70	1.30			
		D	1.30	1.00			
		D-	1.00	0.70			
District	A or B	Grade	AP	Honors	College Prep	Non- Academic	
New Fairfield	B	A+	5.00	4.67	4.33	4.00	
		A	4.67	4.33	4.00	3.67	
		A-	4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	
		B+	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	
		B	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	
		B-	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	
		C+	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	
		C	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	
		C-	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	
		D+	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	
		D	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	
		D-	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.33	

District	A or B	Grade	AP/ UCONN ECE	Honors	College Prep			
Cheshire	B	A+	5.33	4.83	4.33			
		A	5.00	4.50	4.00			
		A-	4.66	4.16	3.66			
		B+	4.33	3.83	3.33			
		B	4.00	3.50	3.00			
		B-	3.66	3.16	2.66			
		C+	3.33	2.83	2.33			
		C	3.00	2.50	2.00			
		C-	2.66	2.16	1.66			
		D+	2.33	1.83	1.33			
		D	2.00	1.50	1.00			
		D-	1.66	1.36	0.66			
District	A or B	Grade	AP/UCONN ECE	Honors	College Prep			
Brookfield	B	A+	5.33	4.67	4.33			
		A	5.00	4.34	4.00			
		A-	4.67	4.01	3.67			
		B+	4.33	3.67	3.33			
		B	4.00	3.34	3.00			
		B-	3.67	3.01	2.67			
		C+	3.33	2.67	2.33			
		C	3.00	2.34	2.00			
		C-	2.67	2.01	1.67			
		D+	2.33	1.67	1.33			
		D	2.00	1.34	1.00			
District	A or B	Grade						
West Hartford	B	A+						
		A						
		A-						
		B+	<i>Use Numerical grades only 0-100</i>					
		B						
		B-						
		C+						
		C						
		C-						
		D+						
		D						
		D-						

District	A or B	Grade	AP	Honors	College Prep A	College Prep B	General
Newtown	B	A+	5.50	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.67
		A	5.17	4.67	4.17	3.67	3.33
		A-	4.83	4.33	3.83	3.33	3.00
		B+	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.67
		B	4.17	3.67	3.17	2.67	2.33
		B-	3.83	3.33	2.83	2.33	2.00
		C+	3.50	3.00	2.50	2.00	1.67
		C	3.17	2.67	2.17	1.67	1.33
		C-	2.83	2.33	1.83	1.33	1.00
		D+	2.50	2.00	1.50	1.00	0.67
		D	2.17	1.67	1.17	0.67	0.33
		D-	1.83	1.33	0.83	0.33	0.00
District	A or B	Grade	AP	Honors	College Prep		
Madison	B	A+	5.33	4.33	3.33		
		A	5.00	4.00	3.00		
		A-	4.67	3.67	2.67		
		B+	4.33	3.33	2.33		
		B	4.00	3.00	2.00		
		B-	3.67	2.67	1.67		
		C+	3.33	2.33	1.33		
		C	3.00	2.00	1.00		
		C-	2.67	1.67	0.67		
		D	2.00	1.00	0.33		
District	A or B	Grade	AP/UCONN ECE	Honors (Level 1)	Level 0	College Prep (Level 2)	
Fairfield	B	A+	5.00	4.67	4.67	4.33	
		A	4.67	4.33	4.33	4.00	
		A-	4.33	4.00	4.00	3.67	
		B+	4.00	3.67	3.67	3.33	
		B	3.67	3.33	3.33	3.00	
		B-	3.33	3.00	3.00	2.67	
		C+	3.00	2.67	2.67	2.33	
		C	2.67	2.33	2.33	2.00	
		C-	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.67	
		D+	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.33	
		D	1.67	1.33	1.00	1.00	
		D-	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.67	

District	A or B	Grade	AP/ECE	Honors	College Prep			
South Windsor	B	A+						
		A	4.67	4.33	4.00			
		A-	4.33	4.00	3.67			
		B+	4.00	3.67	3.33			
		B	3.67	3.33	3.00			
		B-	3.33	3.00	2.67			
		C+	3.00	2.67	2.33			
		C	2.67	2.33	2.00			
		C-	2.33	2.00	1.67			
		D+	2.00	1.67	1.33			
		D						
		D-						

District	A or B	Grade	GPA	AP	Honors	Level I	Level II
District 5	B	A+	4.30	5.60	5.16	4.73	4.3
Amity		A	4.00	5.30	4.86	4.43	4
Orange		A-	3.70	5.00	4.56	4.13	3.7
Woodbridge		B+	3.30	4.60	4.16	3.73	3.3
		B	3.00	4.30	3.86	3.43	3
		B-	2.70	4.00	3.56	3.13	2.7
		C+	2.30	3.60	3.16	2.73	2.3
		C	2.00	3.30	2.86	2.43	2
		C-	1.70	3.00	2.56	2.13	1.7
		D+	1.30	2.60	2.16	1.73	1.3
		D	1.00	2.30	1.86	1.43	1
		D-	0.70	2.00	1.56	1.13	0.7

District	A or B	Grade	Honors	College Prep			
Greenwich	B	A+	5.30	4.3			
		A	5.00	4			
		A-	4.70	3.7			
		B+	4.30	3.3			
		B	4.00	3			
		B-	3.70	2.7			
		C+	3.30	2.3			
		C	3.00	2			
		C-	2.70	1.7			
		D+	2.30	1.3			
		D	2.00	1			
		D-	1.70	0.7			

Appendix C:
Full list of course name changes

Department	CURRENT Course Name	REVISED Course Name (Blanks indicate name will stay the same)
Art	Drawing & Painting I	Intro Drawing and Painting
Art	Sculpture I	Intro Sculpture
Art	Sculpture II	Adv Pottery and Sculpture
Art	Drawing & Painting II	Inter Drawing and Painting
Art	Intro to Studio Art	Adv Drawing and Painting
Art	Intro to Pottery	
Art	Intermediate Pottery	Inter Pottery
Art	Advanced Pottery	Adv Pottery
Art	Intro to Digital Photography	Intro Digital Photo
Art	Intro to Darkroom Photography	Intro Darkroom Photo
Art	Intermediate Photography	Inter Photo
Art	Advanced Photography	Adv Photo
Art	Advanced Photography II	
Art	AP Studio Art	AP Studio Art
Art	Digital Illus/Graphic Design I	Intro Digital Design
Art	Digital Illus/Graphic DesignII	Inter Digital Design
Business	Intro to Business	
Business	Computer Info Systems	
Business	Web Design	
Business	Computer Games Program/Design	Computer Games Programming
Business	Business Sports/Entertainment	
Business	Entrepreneurship	
Business	Robotic Programming	
Business	Computer Science Principles	AP Computer Science Principles
Business	AP Computer Science	
Business	Accounting	Accounting I
Business	Accounting II	
Business	AP Microeconomics	
Business	AP Macroeconomics	
Business	Business Law	
Business	Business Management	
Business	Financial Literacy	
Business	Marketing	
Business	Advanced Advertising & Design	Advertising
Business	Intro to Investing & Finance	Investing
Business	Internship/Career ExplorationA	Internship/Career Exploration
Business	Internship/Career ExplorationB	Internship/Career Exploration
English	English 11	English 9 H
English	English 12	English 9
English	English 12	English 9
English	English 12	English 9
English	English 21	English 10 H
English	English 21	English 10
English	English 21	English 10 H
English	English 22	English 10
English	English 22	English 10

Department	CURRENT Course Name	REVISED Course Name (Blanks indicate name will stay the same)
English	English 22	English 10
English	AP Lang & Composition AS	AP Lang and Comp Amer Studies
English	English 31	English 11 H
English	English 32	English 11
English	AP Lang & Composition	AP Lang and Comp
English	English 41	English 12 H
English	English 42	English 12
English	AP Literature & Composition	AP Literature and Composition
English	Call of the Wild Literature	
English	Creative Writing	
English	Journalism	
English	Poetry	
English	Satire	
English	Gender Perspectives Literature	
English	Supernatural in Literature	
English	Film Analysis & Criticism	Film Analysis and Criticism
English	Dramatic Lit & Performance	Dramatic Lit and Performance
English	Contemporary Global Literature	
English	Beginning EL A	
English	Beginning EL B	
English	Intermediate EL A	
English	Intermediate EL B	
English	Academic EL Support A	
English	Academic EL Support B	
English	English EL 1	English EL I
English	English EL 2	English EL II
English	Acting 10	Acting I
English	Acting 20	Acting II
English	Performance Studio 30	Performance Studio III
English	Performance Studio 40	Performance Studio IV
English	Language Arts	
Family & Consumer Science	Fashion & Design 10	Fashion and Design I
Family & Consumer Science	Fashion & Design 20	Fashion and Design II
Family & Consumer Science	Fashion & Design - Fitting 20	
Family & Consumer Science	Fashion & Design - Redesign 20	
Family & Consumer Science	Fashion & Design 30	Fashion and Design III
Family & Consumer Science	Fashion & Design 40	Fashion and Design IV
Family & Consumer Science	Fashion Merchandising 10	Fashion Merchandising I
Family & Consumer Science	Fashion Merchandising 20	Fashion Merchandising II
Family & Consumer Science	Interior Design	
Family & Consumer Science	Food & Nutrition	Food and Nutrition I
Family & Consumer Science	Food & Nutrition II	
Family & Consumer Science	Intro to Culinary Arts 10	Intro to Culinary Arts
Family & Consumer Science	Baking & Pastry	
Family & Consumer Science	Global Foods	
Family & Consumer Science	Regional American Foods	

Department	CURRENT Course Name	REVISED Course Name (Blanks indicate name will stay the same)
Family & Consumer Science	Unified Culinary Arts	
Family & Consumer Science	Food Services 20	Food Services I
Family & Consumer Science	Food Services 20 Prep	Food Services I Prep
Family & Consumer Science	Food Services 30	Food Services II
Family & Consumer Science	Food Services 30 Prep	Food Services II Prep
Family & Consumer Science	Food Services 40	Food Services III
Family & Consumer Science	Food Services 40 Prep	Food Services III Prep
Family & Consumer Science	Child Development 30	Child Development I
Family & Consumer Science	Early Childhood Education 40	Child Development II
Family & Consumer Science	ECD Lab	Child Development Lab
Family & Consumer Science	Individual & Family Developmen	Individual and Family Dev ECE
Health	Health Grade 9	Health 9
Health	Health Grade 10	Health 10
Health	Health Grade 11	Health 11
Health	Health Grade 12	Health 12
Math	Algebra 12	Algebra I
Math	Algebra 12	Algebra I
Math	Algebra 12	Algebra I
Math	Algebra I Workshop A	
Math	Algebra I Workshop B	
Math	Math Lab	
Math	Geometry 21	Geometry H
Math	Geometry 22	Geometry
Math	Geometry 22	Geometry
Math	Geometry 22	Geometry
Math	Geometry Workshop A	
Math	Geometry Workshop B	
Math	Algebra 31	Algebra II H
Math	Algebra 32	Algebra II
Math	Algebra 32	Algebra II
Math	Algebra 32	Algebra II
Math	Algebra II Workshop A	
Math	Algebra II Workshop B	
Math	Pre Calculus 40	Pre Calculus
Math	Pre Calculus 41	Pre Calculus H
Math	Financial Algebra 42A	Financial Algebra A
Math	Financial Algebra 42A	Financial Algebra A
Math	Financial Algebra 42A	Financial Algebra A
Math	Financial Algebra 42B	Financial Algebra B
Math	Financial Algebra 42B	Financial Algebra B
Math	Financial Algebra 42B	Financial Algebra B
Math	Intro To Calculus 50	Calculus H
Math	AP Calculus AB	
Math	Probability & Statistics 40	Probability & Statistics
Math	Math Modeling 42	Math Modeling
Math	Trigonometry 42	Trigonometry

Department	CURRENT Course Name	REVISED Course Name (Blanks indicate name will stay the same)
Math	AP Calculus BC	
Math	AP Statistics	
Math	Multivariable Calculus	
Music	Jazz Ensemble	
Music	Wind Ensemble	
Music	Concert Band	
Music	Concert Band II	Symphonic Band
Music	Concert Choir	
Music	Music Theory I	
Music	Music Theory II	
Music	Symphonic Orchestra	
Music	Concert Orchestra	
Music	Chamber Orchestra	
Music	Voice Class	Vocal Studio
Music	Treble Choir	
Music	Chamber Singers	Chamber Choir
Music	Beginning Piano/Keyboard Class	Piano Studio
Music	Music Technology I	
Music	Music Technology II	
Physical Education	Physical Education 9	
Physical Education	Physical Education 10	
Physical Education	Physical Education 11	
Physical Education	Physical Education 12	
Physical Education	Physical Education	
Reading	Reading Strategies 9 I A	Reading Strategies 9 I A
Reading	Reading Strategies 9 I B	Reading Strategies 9 I B
Reading	Reading Strategies 9 2 A	Reading Strategies 9 II A
Reading	Reading Strategies 9 2 B	Reading Strategies 9 II B
Reading	Reading Strategies 10-12 I A	Reading Strategies 10-12 I A
Reading	Reading Strategies 10-12 I B	Reading Strategies 10-12 I B
Reading	Reading Strategies 10-12 2 A	Reading Strategies 10-12 II A
Reading	Reading Strategies 10-12 2 B	Reading Strategies 10-12 II B
School Counseling	Impact Group A	Impact Group Skills A
School Counseling	Impact Learning Skills A	
School Counseling	ESS Session	
School Counseling	ESS Class	
School Counseling	Impact Group B	Impact Group Skills B
School Counseling	Impact Learning Skills B	
Science	Earth - The Dangerous Planet	
Science	Earth's Dynamic Environment	
Science	Biology 21	Biology H
Science	Biology 22	Biology
Science	Biology 22	Biology
Science	Biology 22	Biology
Science	Chemistry 31	Chemistry H
Science	Chemistry 32	Chemistry

Department	CURRENT Course Name	REVISED Course Name (Blanks indicate name will stay the same)
Science	Chemistry of Medicines	
Science	Nutritional Chemistry	
Science	Meteorology	
Science	Physics 40	Physics
Science	AP Biology	
Science	Human Anat & Phys-Brains Bones	
Science	Human Anat & Phys-Blood Guts	
Science	AP Chemistry	
Science	AP Physics 1	AP Physics I
Science	AP Physics 2	AP Physics II
Science	Science of the Cosmos	
Science	AP Environmental Science	
Science	Forensics I: Without a Trace	
Science	Science of the Earth's Waters	
Science	Marine Science of LI Sound	
Science	Forensics II: Fake the Prints	
Social Studies	Global Studies 11	Global Studies H
Social Studies	Global Studies 12	Global Studies
Social Studies	Global Studies 12	Global Studies
Social Studies	Global Studies 12	Global Studies
Social Studies	Modern Global Studies 21	Modern Global Studies H
Social Studies	Modern Global Studies 22	Modern Global Studies
Social Studies	Modern Global Studies 22	Modern Global Studies
Social Studies	Modern Global Studies 22	Modern Global Studies
Social Studies	AP US History	
Social Studies	AP US History AS	AP US History Amer Studies
Social Studies	US History 31	US History H
Social Studies	US History 32	US History
Social Studies	Contemporary US History	
Social Studies	Psychology 40 sem	Psychology
Social Studies	AP Psychology	
Social Studies	AP Modern European History	
Social Studies	Sociology	
Social Studies	Civics-Youth & the Law	
Social Studies	AP Comparative Govt & Politics	
Social Studies	AP US Government & Politics	
Social Studies	Civics-International Relations	Civics-Internat'l Relations
Social Studies	Civics & Contemporary Issues	
Social Studies	Economics	
Social Studies	Humanities	
Social Studies	Social Studies EL 1	Social Studies EL I
Social Studies	Social Studies EL 2	Social Studies EL II
Technology Education	Computer Aided Design (CAD) 10	CAD & 3D Animation I
Technology Education	Computer Aided Design (CAD) 20	CAD & 3D Animation II
Technology Education	Comp Aided Design (CAD) 20 sem	CAD & 3D Animation II sem
Technology Education	Computer Aided Design (CAD) 30	CAD & 3D Animation III

Department	CURRENT Course Name	REVISED Course Name (Blanks indicate name will stay the same)
Technology Education	Comp Aided Design (CAD) 30 sem	CAD & 3D Animation III sem
Technology Education	Computer Aided Design (CAD) 40	CAD & 3D Animation IV
Technology Education	Comp Aided Design (CAD) 40 sem	CAD & 3D Animation IV sem
Technology Education	Graphic Comm Tech 10	Graphic Design Tech I
Technology Education	Graphic Comm Tech 20	Graphic Design Tech II
Technology Education	Graphic Comm Tech 30	Graphic Design Tech III
Technology Education	Graphic Comm Tech 30 sem	Graphic Design Tech III sem
Technology Education	Graphic Comm Tech 40	Graphic Design Tech IV
Technology Education	Graphic Comm Tech 40 sem	Graphic Design Tech IV sem
Technology Education	Graphic Comm Tech 50	Graphic Design Tech V
Technology Education	Graphic Comm Tech 50 sem	Graphic Design Tech V sem
Technology Education	Home & Auto- Care & Maint	Home & Automotove Mainteance
Technology Education	Transportation Technology 10	Transportation Technology I
Technology Education	Transportation Technology 20	Transportation Technology II
Technology Education	Transportation Technology 30	Transportation Technology III
Technology Education	Wood Manufacturing 10	Wood Technology I
Technology Education	Wood Manufacturing 20	Wood Technology II
Technology Education	Wood Manufacturing 30	Wood Technology III
Technology Education	Wood Manufacturing 30 sem	Wood Technology III sem
Technology Education	Wood Construction Tech 40	Wood Technology IV
Technology Education	Wood Construction Tech 50	Wood Technology V
Technology Education	Engineering Design/Robotics 10	Engineering Design/Robotics
Technology Education	Applied Mechanics 40	Automotive Technology IV
Technology Education	Applied Mechanics 50	Automotive Technology V
Technology Education	Computer Technology 10	Computer Engineering I
Technology Education	Computer Technology 20	Computer Engineering II
Technology Education	Computer Technology 30	Computer Engineering III
Technology Education	Computer Technology 40	Computer Engineering IV
Video Production	Broadcast Journalism	
Video Production	Video Production	
Video Production	Movie Production	
Video Production	Adv. Broadcast Journalism	Adv Broadcast Journalism
Video Production	Documentary Production	
World Language	Italian 10	Italian I H
World Language	Italian 20	Italian II H
World Language	Italian 31	Italian III H
World Language	Italian 41	Italian IV H
World Language	Spanish 10	Spanish I H
World Language	Spanish 20	Spanish II H
World Language	Spanish 31	Spanish III H
World Language	Spanish 41	Spanish IV H
World Language	Spanish 42	Spanish IV
World Language	Spanish 51	Spanish V H
World Language	Spanish 52	Spanish V
World Language	Spanish 60	Spanish VI H
World Language	AP Spanish	

Department	CURRENT Course Name	REVISED Course Name (Blanks indicate name will stay the same)
World Language	French 10	French I H
World Language	French 20	French II H
World Language	French 31	French III H
World Language	French 41	French IV H
World Language	French 42	French IV
World Language	French 51	French V H
World Language	French 52	French V
World Language	French 60	French VI H
World Language	AP French	
World Language	Latin 10	Latin I H
World Language	Latin 20	Latin II H
World Language	Latin 31	Latin III H
World Language	Latin 41	Latin IV H
World Language	AP Latin	AP Latin
World Language	Mandarin 10	Mandarin I H
World Language	Mandarin 20	Mandarin II H
World Language	Mandarin 31	Mandarin III H
World Language	Mandarin 41	Mandarin IV H