



HIGH SCHOOL GPA WEIGHT PROPOSAL

Presentation to the Board of Education
January 8, 2019

Board Policy 6146.11

WEIGHTED GRADES

- The Board of Education is in favor of weighted grading for all levels including honors and advanced placement courses. The grade weighting system, developed by the administration, is subject to the approval of the Superintendent who shall then present the grade weighting system to the Board for its approval. Students and parents shall be advised of this policy and the specifics of the grade weighting system annually at the time of course selection via the program of studies and student/parent handbooks.
- Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-220g.
- Adopted: 5/9/2006

Proposed New 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

AP = Advanced Placement

H= Honors

CP= College Prep

Side by Side Comparison

Proposed Scale:

	1	2	3
GRADE	AP	H	CP
A	5.00	4.50	4.00
B	4.00	3.50	3.00
C	3.00	2.50	2.00
D	2.00	1.50	1.00
F	0.00	0.00	0.00

Current Scale:

	1	2	3	4
GRADE	AP	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 0	LEVEL 2
A	4.67	4.33	4.33	4.00
B	3.67	3.33	3.33	3.00
C	2.67	2.33	2.33	2.00
D	1.67	1.33	1.00	1.00
F	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Summary of Comparison:

1. New scale has 3 levels instead of 4
2. New scale increment between levels is .5, instead of .33
3. New scale does not have Level 0
4. College Prep level remains on 4.00 scale

AP = Advanced Placement
Level 1 = Honors
Level 0 = "Unleveled"
Level 2 = College Prep

How did we get here?

The evolution of this proposal.

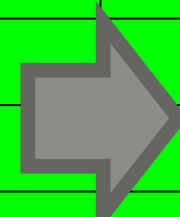
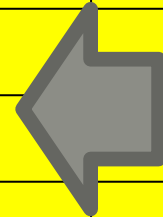
1. We had a need to address confusing course names.
 - a. *Our names include numbers to indicate the year course was taken and the rigor level*
 - b. *Over time, this system has created many inaccuracies and inconsistencies*
 - c. *Parents, students, and colleges often reported confusion*

EXAMPLE: English 11 indicated Freshmen Honors, not Grade 11 English.

2. We had a need to address the issues related to the Level 0 grade weighting column
 - a. *Level 0 is the same weight as Level 1 (Honors) for grades A+ through C; but then it is the same weight as Level 2 (College Prep) for grades C- through F*

SEE TABLE

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



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The evolution of this proposal.

1. We had a need to address confusing course names.
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 - b. *Over time, this system has created many inaccuracies and inconsistencies*
 - c. *Parents, students, and colleges often reported confusion*
EXAMPLE: English 11 indicated Freshmen Honors, not Grade 11 English.

2. We had a need to address the issues related to the Level 0 grade weighting column
 - a. *Level 0 is the same weight as Level 1 (Honors) for grades A+ through C; but then it is the same weight as Level 2 (College Prep) for grades C- through F*
 - b. *Some courses had both Honors and Unleveled sections. (Example PreCalc 41 and PreCalc 40) While these are two different rigor levels, students get the same weight for grades at C and above.*
 - c. *Since many electives are weighted at Level 0, they get a higher GPA weight than many of our core classes at Level 2. (Example: Baking and Pastry 20 is weighted higher than US History 32).*

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

- We currently only report one GPA based on the weighted grade scale.
- Of 164 colleges surveyed, a minority (38%) take GPA at face value
- 62% use some other system, including:
 - *“Recalculate GPA on an unweighted 4.0 scale using courses in 9-11th grade”*
 - University of Michigan
 - *“Re-weight GPA using the University’s own system, Only count academic courses”*
 - University of Southern California
 - *“Only count academic classes, Reweight to a 5.0 scale, giving credit for Honors, AP, IB, and College courses.”*
 - University of Maryland
 - *“Use GPA that benefits the student, if provided.”*
 - Rochester Institute of Technology

How do other DRG A and DRG B high schools calculate GPA?

- A wide number of approaches exist.
- Almost ALL schools provide weight to Honors and AP.
- No other schools weigh elective courses above other academic courses.
- Some schools weigh elective courses at a lower weight than all academic courses.
- Many schools report and Unweighted and Weighted GPA.

The following high schools use a 5.0 (or higher) scale for AP courses and a 4.0 scale for College Prep. (the same as we are proposing):

- *DRG A: Ridgefield, Easton/Redding*
- *DRG B: Cheshire, Brookfield, Avon, Newtown, Madison, Monroe, Amity, Greenwich*

GPA Scale Proposed Revisions:

- A. Use three weights: AP, Honors, and College Prep
- B. Re-assign Level 0 classes to either Honors or College Prep weighting. Criteria will be established for Honors weighting for both core and non-core electives.
- C. Increase the weight of Honors and AP courses.
- D. Provide weighted and unweighted GPA scores on college transcripts and to students and families.

Proposed Timeline

For the 2019-20 School Year:

- Apply all new course names
- Apply new GPA scale to core area freshmen courses ONLY: English 9H, English 9, Global Studies H, Global Studies, Biology H, Biology, Algebra I, Geometry H, Geometry
- All other courses, including World Language and elective courses would not be impacted

For the 2020-21 School Year:

- Apply the new GPA scale to all courses

How this will affect each class

	2019-20	2020-21		2021-22	
Class of 2020 (current juniors)	Graduation year ZERO impact	X		X	
Class of 2021 (current sophomores)	ZERO impact	Graduation Year		X	
		College Prep Courses	No impact		
		All Honors Courses, AP Courses, and Level 0 courses converted to Honors	Increased GPA		
		Some Level 0 Courses converted to College Prep	Decreased GPA		
Class of 2022 (current freshmen)	Students moving from Algebra I to Geometry H will get a bump up in GPA. No other impact.	College Prep Courses	No impact	Graduation Year	
		All Honors Courses, AP Courses, and Level 0 courses converted to Honors	Increased GPA	College Prep Courses	No impact
		Some Level 0 Courses converted to College Prep	Decreased GPA	All Honors Courses, AP Courses, and Level 0 courses converted to Honors	Increased GPA
				Some Level 0 Courses converted to College Prep	Decreased GPA

Percentages taking each type of class:

Reviewed 100 seniors schedules – randomly selected.

Total courses taken during Term 2: 587

This does not include science minis, PE, Health, or support services.

Type of Course	Total Courses	Percentage of Total	Impact
Advanced Placement	189	32%	Increase in GPA
Honors	28	5%	Increase in GPA
Elective – Core classes	241	41%	Increase in GPA
College Prep	27	5%	No Change
Elective (Non-core)	102	17%	Decrease in GPA

Summary – Under the proposal

78% of courses seniors currently take will have an increase in GPA

5% will have no change

17% will have a decrease (for grades A+ through C)

Guiding Principles - Accomplished

- ✓ Provide transparency and clarity on the transcript for Fairfield Public Schools graduates.
- ✓ Create course names that clearly indicate sequence of courses as well as rigor level.
- ✓ Remove the previous number system in course names that caused confusion.
- ✓ Establish more consistency to naming courses across departments.
- ✓ Remove the Level 0 GPA weighting.
- ✓ Re-assign courses to GPA weighting scale to more accurately reflect rigor levels.
- ✓ Minimize the impact of course re-assignment on overall GPA calculation.
- ✓ Change names immediately to gain positive impact of transparency but roll GPA changes out slowly to give families time to adjust.