

UPDATE ON GPA DISCUSSION

January 22, 2019

Feedback Summary

After hearing the feedback from Board of Education members, parents, teachers, and students, five main themes emerged:

1. Widespread support for changing course names and for reporting an unweighted GPA.
2. Concerns about universally assigning grade weights to non-core and core electives that have traditionally been labeled as “Level 0.”
3. Concerns about disproportionately rewarding students who enroll in higher-level courses with increased GPA levels.
4. Requests for considering a roll-out plan that would exempt current sophomores and freshmen from any changes.
5. Questions around the overall impact of the non-core electives changing from Level 0 to College Prep weighting.

Summary of Decisions Based on Feedback:

1. The Administration has decided to move forward removing the “0” label from all course names for the 2020-21 school year. This will necessitate assigning elective courses to an honors or college prep weight.
2. The Administration has decided to maintain the current weighting system but remove the weights associated with Level 0 courses for the 2020-21 school year. This will address concerns about disproportionately rewarding students in honors and AP classes, keep the max GPA at the same level it is now, and keep the increment between levels consistent.
3. We will commit to working with the curriculum office and departments to establish appropriate criteria for honors level courses in both core and non-core elective courses that provide students with the opportunity for considerable intellectual and skill-based challenges above grade-level expectations and/or exist as a culminating course after a sequence of introductory offerings. We anticipate that courses such as the following (but not limited to), would qualify: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Orchestra, Chamber Singers, Graphics Design V, CAD IV, Food Services III, Fashion and Design IV, Accounting II, Advanced Drawing and Painting, Advanced Photography, Advanced Broadcasting, *etc.*
4. We are grateful for the support of course name changes and the reporting of unweighted GPA scores. We will implementing these changes for the 2019-20 school year.
5. The GPA’s on student transcripts will reflect the GPA weight of the course at the time the course was taken. In other words, the changes will not be retroactive. Our rationale for implementing the changes to electives all at the same time and for not exempting currently enrolled students includes the following:
 - a. We philosophically do not support students sitting in the same class, attain the same mark, but receive different GPA weights based on their grade level.
 - b. The student information system management of this scenario would present significant challenges that would increase the potential of human error in master scheduling, attendance records, and grade entry.
 - c. Any further delay of implementing the new approach only lengthens the time we will have to address the inconsistencies and confusion caused by the Level 0 label to colleges and employers for graduating seniors. Delaying one year already impacts the Class of 2023. Delaying two years would impact current seventh graders when they graduate in 2024.

6. An examination of student schedules across grades 9-12 revealed that only 16.6% of courses taken by students are classified as non-core electives. These will be the courses impacted by the re-distribution of electives currently labeled as “Level 0.” By creating options for honors level non-core electives, we will reduce this impact even more. The predicted impact would affect the one-hundredth decimal place of a student’s overall GPA, or less than a .1 difference.

Plan for 2019-20

There will be no change to the current weighting system.

In order to implement the name changes but retain the current weighting system for next year, we will need to rename the column previously identifying the “Level 0” course weighting. Otherwise, we will have to retain the numbers in all course names. Courses using these weights will be referred to as “Electives” rather than “Level 0” courses for one year. This is how it will be presented:

| GRADE | Advanced Placement | Honors | Elective | College Prep |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| A+ | 5.00 | 4.67 | 4.67 | 4.33 |
| A | 4.67 | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.00 |
| A- | 4.33 | 4 | 4 | 3.67 |
| B+ | 4.00 | 3.67 | 3.67 | 3.33 |
| B | 3.67 | 3.33 | 3.33 | 3.00 |
| B- | 3.33 | 3 | 3 | 2.67 |
| C+ | 3.00 | 2.67 | 2.67 | 2.33 |
| C | 2.67 | 2.33 | 2.33 | 2.00 |
| C- | 2.33 | 2 | 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 | 0.67 | 0.67 |
| F | 0.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Plan for 2020-21 and beyond

There will be no change to the current weighting system. All courses (elective and non-elective) will be placed at College Prep or Honors based on the rigor and expectations of the courses.

| GRADE | AP | H | CP |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| A+ | 5.00 | 4.67 | 4.33 |
| A | 4.67 | 4.33 | 4.00 |
| A- | 4.33 | 4 | 3.67 |
| B+ | 4.00 | 3.67 | 3.33 |
| B | 3.67 | 3.33 | 3.00 |
| B- | 3.33 | 3 | 2.67 |
| C+ | 3.00 | 2.67 | 2.33 |
| C | 2.67 | 2.33 | 2.00 |
| C- | 2.33 | 2 | 1.67 |
| D+ | 2.00 | 1.67 | 1.33 |
| D | 1.67 | 1.33 | 1.00 |
| D- | 1.33 | 1 | 0.67 |
| F | 0.00 | 0 | 0 |