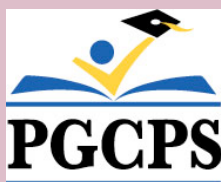


## **Administrative Procedure 5121.3**

# **Grading and Reporting for High Schools Grade Nine through Grade Twelve**



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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of Administrative Procedure 5121.3 is to provide guidance to administrators and teachers in the implementation of the grading and reporting systems to be used in all high schools and centers in Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

Principals or their designees are responsible for ensuring that grading and reporting policies are applied consistently within their school and responsible for reviewing procedures with staff.

With additional guidance of the International High School and Educational Online Program administrative procedures, all high school programs follow AP 5121.3 for grading and reporting.

- For additional International High School guidance, see Administrative Procedure 6186 International High Schools: Admission, Grading and Reporting.
- For additional Educational Online Program guidance, see Administrative Procedure 5182 Educational Online Program.

## **POLICY**

COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations) 13A.03.02.08 states that each local school system shall develop a written policy on grading and reporting.

Each local school system will file its grading and reporting policies with the State Superintendent of Schools. The following procedures have been developed according to COMAR regulations (Board Policy 5121).

The Board of Education believes that all students can learn and achieve at high levels, that rigorous performance standards and achievement standards are essential components of developing and delivering quality instruction, and that regular assessment is an important component of an effective teaching and learning environment and an important tool in measuring students' learning (Board Policy 5121).

## RATIONALE

1. Grading and promotion within the Prince George's County Public School System will be based upon the degree of success an individual student has achieved in completing the educational program designed to meet his/her unique needs.
2. Every student will have the opportunity to earn grades that reflect his/her ability to demonstrate learning outcomes and be graded only in accordance with their achievement on material or information based on specified learning outcomes and approved curricula.
3. The bell curve will not be used as a basis for determining student grades.
4. Grades will be based on class work, independent assignments, and assessments.

## COURSE OF STUDY SYLLABUS

Within the first ten (10) days of each course, teachers shall provide to students and parents/guardians, via online access or hard copy, a written course outline, syllabus, or overview of grade/course expectations including grading procedures, grading categories, and weight assigned to each category. Course outlines, syllabus or overviews of a grade/course expectations can be found on curriculum guides and curriculum staff portal sites.

## GRADING ELEMENTS

1. Grades will be used on report cards for all courses taken for credit. The grades will be reported in a letter grade format.
2. The grades eligible for use on report cards are A, B, C, D, E, F, I, N, P, UC, and W, with no plus or minus signs. Gradebook averages are rounded to the nearest whole number (ex. 82.4 = 82, 91.5 = 92), which is then converted to the corresponding letter grade. Grades for transfer students will be aligned to these eligible grades. Interpretation of letter grades is as follows:
  - A = Excellent progress toward meeting course objectives and learning outcomes (90%-100%).
  - B = Above average progress toward meeting course objectives and learning outcomes (80%-89%).
  - C = Average progress toward meeting course objectives and learning outcomes (70%-79%).
  - D = Below Average progress toward meeting course objectives and learning outcomes (60%-69%).
  - E = Failure toward meeting course objectives and learning outcomes (0-59%).
  - I = Incomplete. The "I" grade may only be used temporarily for secondary students who have been lawfully absent from school and have not had an opportunity to make up missed work in a timely manner.
  - N = No Grade. The "N" grade may be used only for transfer students from outside of PGPCS.
  - P = Pass (credit bearing) only used for Alt (alternate education courses), TAP (Tests of Achievement and Proficiency), or by approval of the Chief Academic Officer.
  - F = Fail (not credit bearing) only used for Alt (alternate education courses) or by approval of the Chief Academic Officer.
  - UC = University or College grade pending.
  - W = Withdrawn. The Student Intervention Team agrees to allow a student to drop a course after twenty (20) school days from the start of a year-long course or ten (10) days in a semester course. If a student receives an "NA" or "W" in a college or online course, a "W" will be the grade earned in the high school course.

3. Categories used to determine student grades must include the following items:
  - a. Class Work
  - b. Independent Assignments
  - c. Assessment
  - d. End of course (EOC) assessment (first time ninth grade 2023-2024 students enrolled in Biology and Local, State, and National Government)
4. Teachers shall assign a minimum grade of 50% to assignments or assessments for which the student completed the entire assignment and made a good faith effort. Good faith effort is evidenced by the student displaying persistence, striving for accuracy, time on task, and/or trying an alternative method to solve a problem (which may not be accurate). It is also a display of thinking as a student works to sort through ideas, apply context or figure out how to solve problems. If a student does no work on an assignment, the teacher shall assign a grade of zero.

## **GRADING CATEGORIES**

General characteristics for INDEPENDENT ASSIGNMENTS, CLASS WORK, and ASSESSMENTS are as follows. For all categories, teachers should make a connection to previous or current content standards and provide feedback that is prompt, specific, understandable to the student, and formed to allow for self-adjustment on the student's part.

INDEPENDENT ASSIGNMENTS have the following characteristics:

- Intended to be completed separately from the teacher (i.e. opportunities for independent practice);
- Aligned to a previously taught skill or concept and used for review, practice, enrichment, or completion of work. Students have the chance to apply what they learn in the classroom. Independent assignments usually reinforce previously taught skills and may prepare students for future lessons;
- In Secondary, assignments are due on the next day of scheduled classes and should not be required for submission the day following school being closed.

CLASS WORK has the following characteristics:

- Intended to be completed with the teacher available to observe, answer questions, and/or interact with students while completing work, or separately by the student during an independent module/break;
- Intended to involve interaction among students with their peers;
- Intended for the majority of the assignment to be completed during class time;
- Aligned to a previously taught skill or concept and/or used for review, practice, enrichment, completion of work or preparation for a future lesson; and
- Can be completed during or outside of school hours.

ASSESSMENTS have the following characteristics:

- Intended to measure the successful acquisition of learning and/or mastery of a set of standards;
- Aligned to a previously taught skill or concept and used for review, practice, enrichment, or completion of work unless in the instance of diagnostics;
- Intended to be completed with or without teacher observation;
- Intended to allow students to demonstrate mastery in various modalities and formats; and
- Differentiated so that all students can experience success and work independently.

For first time ninth grade students in school year 2023-2024 who are enrolled in Biology and Local, State, and National Government, 80% of the student's grade will be calculated using Independent Assignments, Class Work, and Assessments. The remaining 20% of the grade will be calculated using the EOC assessment.

An EOC assessment is content specific and required to be taken at the conclusion of a high school course. MSDE has developed a process for reporting scaled scores into one of four performance levels. Students will receive an individual student report (ISR) with their scaled score and performance level.

<b>High School Grades 9-12 Grading Categories</b> <b>These grading categories and percentages are preset in SchoolMAX for courses with credit value.</b> <b>Teachers may not change the percentages in these grading categories in their gradebooks.</b> <b>Teachers may not edit or create additional categories.</b> <b>Non-credit, online and blended courses do not have gradebook category weights.</b>			
Content Area	INDEPENDENT ASSIGNMENTS	CLASS WORK	ASSESSMENTS
Academic Internship	10	50	40
Academic Resource	10	50	40
Advanced Placement	25	35	40
Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)	25	35	40
Aerospace Engineering and Aviation Technology (AEAT)	25	35	40
Career and Technical Education	10	50	40
College Summit	25	30	45
Concurrent Enrollment (credit)	NA	NA	NA
Dance Education	10	60	30
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)	25	35	40
Health Education	15	60	25
Hearing Resource	10	50	40
Immersion	20	35	45
International Baccalaureate	25	35	40
Instrumental Music	10	60	30
Mathematics	25	35	40
Media Arts Production	20	50	30
Peer Group Connection	20	50	30
Physical Education	5	70	25
Project Lead the Way (PLTW)	10	50	40
Reading/English Language Arts	25	35	40
Research Practicum (S/T and AEAT)	25	35	40
SAT Prep	25	35	40

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<b>Teachers may not edit or create additional categories.</b>			
<b>Non-credit, online and blended courses do not have gradebook category weights.</b>			
<b>Content Area</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>CLASS WORK</b>	<b>ASSESSMENTS</b>
Science	25	35	40
Science and Technology (S/T)	25	35	40
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)	25	35	40
Social Studies	25	35	40
Theatre Arts/Drama	10	60	30
Visual Art	30	50	20
Vocal and General Music	10	60	30
World Languages	20	35	45
<b>High School Grades 9-12 Grading Categories (CRI, Regional Schools, Regional Programs)</b>			
Academic Resource Support-Autism	10	50	40
Art Alt		100	
Career Research and Development Alt	5	70	25
English Alt	5	70	25
Financial Literacy-Alt	5	70	25
Health Alt	5	70	25
Independent Living Skills-Alt	5	70	25
Mathematics Alt	5	70	25
Music Alt		100	
Physical Education Alt	5	70	25
Science Alt	5	70	25
Social Studies Alt	5	70	25
Work Place Literacy-Alt	5	70	25

## **REPORTING AND RECORDING GRADES**

### 1. Reporting

- a. In quarterly reporting to parents/guardians, a letter grade is used to indicate the performance of each student in relation to the attainment of learning outcomes and approved curricula. This quarterly letter grade is implemented effective in school year 2023-2024. Previously numeric grades were reported quarterly.
- b. Students and/or parents/guardians may request one additional opportunity to improve a score on any

qualifying assessment, activity, or assignment that demonstrates knowledge of course content, skills, and standards. The higher grade shall be the grade of record. An assessment, activity or assignment is considered qualifying if the following criteria are met:

1. The student completed and submitted the original assessment, activity, or assignment by the due date.
  2. The student participated in the teacher-facilitated re-teaching (before, during, or after school) within five school days following the return of the original graded work. The intention of re-teaching is to promote student learning of the material. Re-teaching may include but is not limited to feedback on the original task/assessment, additional tasks assigned by teacher, study packet, review session, whole or small-group instruction, computer tutorial, peer tutoring, or attending school or content-specific study sessions. The re-teaching does not have to be face-to-face.
  3. Within ten school days of receiving the returned original graded work, the student completed and resubmitted the new assessment, activity, or assignment.
  4. Final research reports and projects that culminate a unit of study, or final semester or marking period exams may not be reassessed. If the teacher determines that other class work, independent assignments, or assessments are not eligible for reassessment, that must be identified in writing at the time of original assignment.
  5. Make up work can not be submitted 5 school days prior to the end of the quarter to ensure teachers have time to grade all outstanding work.
- c. A student enrolled in a course for twenty-one (21) days or more after the start of the course must receive a letter grade for that grading period.
- d. General Education teachers must work collaboratively with Special Education Case Managers to review student grades in order to support student learning needs and to monitor and report student progress accurately.
- e. When a course is added to a school's course master after the first day of school, the scheduler will create course sections for the course, update grading patterns and contact Student Applications to update the gradebook for the newly created sections.

## 2. Recording

Teachers will maintain a record of each student's work, progress, and attendance in SchoolMAX on a daily basis.

- a. Teachers and schools will maintain records of student progress. It is expected that teachers will enter graded student work into their electronic grade book and return that work to students within ten business days of the due date of submission of the assignment. However, it is recognized that to provide meaningful feedback to students, teachers may not be able to read/review and post the grade within ten business days, and, on those assignments, teachers may provide written notice on the rubric or assignment with a projected date that grades will be returned to students. Make up work can not be submitted 5 school days prior to the end of the quarter to ensure teachers have time to grade all outstanding work.
- b. If lawfully absent students return to school near the end of the first, second, or third marking period and do not have sufficient time to make up the missed work, an "I" (incomplete) grade will be assigned. The "I" must be resolved by the next marking period. The "I" cannot be recorded in 4th quarter. The "I" is a placeholder with no grade point average value.
- c. Teachers must assess a variety of student performances such as written assignments, independent assignments, projects, class work, quizzes, tests, and end of quarter/course examinations. Teachers shall assign a minimum grade of 50% to assignments or assessments for which the student completed the entire assignment and made a good faith effort. Good faith effort is evidenced by the student displaying



persistence, striving for accuracy, time on task, and/or trying an alternative method to solve a problem (which may not be accurate). It is also a display of thinking as a student works to sort through ideas, apply context or figure out how to solve problems. If a student does no work on an assignment, the teacher shall assign a grade of zero.

d. Principals (or their designees) are responsible to oversee the entry of numerical grades per week in SchoolMAX.

1) The classroom teacher must record in SchoolMAX a minimum number of numerical grades per week in each subject per this chart:

<b>Meeting Frequency (number of sessions per week)</b>	<b>Minimum number of grades to be recorded each week</b>
3-5 sessions	2
1-2 sessions	1

2) Grades must be recorded in each category quarterly (class work, independent assignments, and assessments). A minimum of four grades must be recorded in grading categories of 20% or greater weight each quarterly marking period. If a course meets only once a week, the minimum of four grades must be recorded in grading categories of the highest weight.

3) To generate the high school grade for Dual Enrollment, the PGCPS Teacher of Record inputs the grades into SchoolMAX. The expectation for a minimum number of grades per week is to be waived for the Dual Enrollment courses to ensure that the grades the students receive on the high school transcript and college transcript will be the same.

e. Teachers must return graded papers and assignments within ten days of submission in order to provide on-going, timely feedback to students and parents. A portfolio assessment of each student's work is recommended as additional documentation of student performance.

f. A student will receive a zero when the following occurs:

- 1) A student has cheated on a test, quiz, or assigned project.
- 2) A student who has been lawfully absent fails to produce make-up work in a reasonable timeframe.
- 3) A student has been unlawfully absent.
- 4) A student does not turn in an assignment.

g. Assignments done for practice should not be assessed in terms of a grade, but in terms of completeness.

h. Grades will not include systemic assessments that are a part of benchmarking measures.

i. A consistent grading scale must be used when entering assignment scores in SchoolMAX.

1) Teachers must enter the assignment score and earned scores in SchoolMAX.

2) Because we use a weighted gradebook, SchoolMAX will automatically calculate both the percentage for the individual assignment and the weighted percentage for the entire category.

3) Teachers must never mix entry types within a category (percentages, whole numbers). Combining the two in a gradebook skews the data.

j. A change to the grade that occurs after the marking period ends but before the grading window closes shall be called a "grade override." The grade resulting from the change shall be called the "new grade." The grade initially recorded but later changed shall be called the "old grade." In the event a student's quarter grade needs to be adjusted, a teacher may override the calculated grade.

Grade Overrides Permissible - If the following conditions are met Grade Overrides are permissible:

- 1) The teacher has complied with grading and reporting procedures, and
- 2) The new grade more accurately reflects the student's performance during the grading period than does the old grade, and

3)The teacher can support the change by producing upon request sufficient documentation to show the new grade more accurately reflects the student’s performance than the old grade. The teacher is required to retain for one additional school year and make available for inspection any and all documents and/or materials that the teacher contends support the grade override.

Grade Override Prohibition - Grade overrides may not be used to mitigate the result of a teacher’s failure to comply with grading and/or reporting procedures and/or a teacher’s failure to comply with grade change procedures. In cases of an error, teachers are required to follow the grade change process (see Administrative Procedure 5116).

k. In the event of extenuating circumstances occurring at the end of the course, individual students may be exempted from final examinations upon the recommendation of the teacher and with the written approval of the Principal and the Instructional Director.

### 3. Entry of Grades

Teachers must adhere to the grade reporting timeline as published annually.

- a. All students in an assigned teacher’s course must receive a grade during the end of the quarter grading window if enrolled 21 or more days in the course.
- b. Principals, or their designees, are responsible for ensuring that all grades are submitted prior to the closing of the grading window.
- c. Grade managers are responsible for identifying teachers who fail to post grades prior to and after the closing of the window. The grade manager must run a “Failure to Post” report and submit it to the Principal within 48 hours following report card grading windows.
- d. Principals, or their designees, are responsible for storing a “Failure to Post” report for a period of four years in the Principal’s office.
- e. After the closing of the grading window but prior to the grade manager reporting that the grading file is “ready to print”, the grade manager must complete a Post-Cutoff-Date Correction entry for students whose grades were not reported during the grading window. The grade manager must collect documentation demonstrating how these grades were provided and include it when submitting the “failure to post” form.
- f. After the grade manager has reported the grade file is “ready to print”, all subsequent grade changes must occur using the electronic PS-140 form. For more information regarding the grade change process, see Administrative Procedure 5116 Grade Change Authorization and Appeals.

## **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

1. SchoolMAX generated Canvas courses are populated with the Gradebook Category names aligned with AP 5121.3. When creating assignments for student use, only use the grading categories provided: INDEPENDENT ASSIGNMENTS, CLASS WORK, ASSESSMENTS.
2. Teachers who are utilizing the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) integration with SchoolMAX for grading (when functional) must reference the Canvas Grading Guidance posted on the Technology Training Team (T3) SchoolMAX for Teachers Training Page.

## **GRADING - ABSENCES**

Refer to Administrative Procedure 5113 Attendance.

## DETERMINING FINAL GRADES (9-12)

1. For semester and year-long courses, all quarter grades will be given equal weight when computing final grades. In quarter-long courses, the final grade will be the same as the quarter grade. For first time ninth grade students in school year 2023-2024 who are enrolled in Biology and Local, State, and National Government, the final grade will include 20% from the end of course assessment.

2. The four-point scale is as follows:

A = 4.00      B = 3.00      C = 2.00      D = 1.00      E = 0.00

3. In averaging grades, the letter grades for all quarters are translated to the traditional four-point scale. The average grade is computed by adding the numerical equivalents for all letter grades and dividing by the number of grading quarters.

4. The grading scale for final grades is as follows:

A = 3.5-4.0 or higher      B = 2.5-3.49      C = 1.5-2.49      D = 0.5-1.49      E = 0.0-0.49

## GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

1. The following numerical equivalents will be used in computing the GPA from report card letter grades:

Non-Honors      A = 4.00      B = 3.00      C = 2.00      D = 1.00      E = 0.00

Honors      A = 4.50      B = 3.50      C = 2.50      D = 1.50      E = 0.00

2. For additional weighting at the high school level, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit, and select other courses are approved. Seminar courses will not receive weighted grades. Additional courses may be approved system-wide by the Chief Academic Officer. In computing the GPAs from report card letter grades, the following numerical equivalents will be used:

A = 5.00      B = 4.00      C = 3.00      D = 2.00      E = 0.00

3. Weighted refers to courses receiving a numerical advantage in calculating GPA, an additional .5 or 1.0 points added to the grade value. Weighted credit will only be applied to courses that are eligible in PGCPSS. Honors weight is effective school year 2016-2017 and after.

4. The following grades are not included in GPA calculations: "F", "I", "N", "P", "UC", "W".

5. GPAs are computed for secondary students in Prince George's County Public Schools as below.

a. A quarterly GPA will appear on each quarterly report card. It is derived by performing the following procedure:

- 1) The credit value of each course will be divided by the number of quarterly grades that the course receives during the year (quarterly credit).
- 2) For each course, the quarterly credit will be multiplied by the grade points awarded for the weighted grades received.
- 3) The sum of the products from (b) above will be divided by the sum of quarterly credits.

b. A final, end-of-year GPA is calculated for all courses completed during a particular school year and will appear on the final report card and the computer printed student record card. It is derived by performing the following procedure:

- 1) The credit value of each course is multiplied by the grade points for the weighted grade received. This product is known as the quality points.
- 2) The sum of the quality points is divided by the sum of the credits attempted.

c. A weighted cumulative GPA is calculated for all completed courses bearing high school credit and appearing on the computer printed university style transcript and student record card (in the summary section), provided that the student's history file is current. It is derived by performing the following procedure:

- 1) The credit value of each completed course is multiplied by the grade points for the weighted grade received. This product is known as the quality points.
- 2) The sum of the quality points is divided by the sum of all credits attempted. This includes grades awarded in middle school through the High School Credit for Middle School Coursework plan. It also includes day, evening, and summer school courses from initial entry into Grade 9 through dates of issuance of the computer printed student record card.

d. A cumulative career GPA is calculated for all courses bearing high school credit.

## **HONOR ROLL**

1. The purpose of the honor roll program is to recognize and honor secondary students who have attained outstanding academic success and to provide positive reinforcement that inspires all students to strive even harder and perform at their highest level in all subjects.
2. All schools will implement this honor roll system that recognizes students for high academic achievement at the end of each marking period during the school year. Schools are required to recognize students for performance at two levels: Principal's Honor Roll and Honor Roll.
3. Students qualifying for each level of honor roll will be identified by the Department of Student Applications based on grades entered on student report cards in secondary schools. The following criteria will be used to identify students at each level:
  - a. Principal's Honor Roll: Students with at least a 4.0 GPA.
  - b. Honor Roll: Students with at least a 3.0 GPA or higher.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

1. An interim progress report must be issued to all students at the middle of each quarter. Teachers may also issue additional interim progress reports to indicate a significant change in student attainment of learning outcomes or to encourage students to continue their satisfactory progress. Further, individual schools may decide to issue interim progress reports with even greater frequency.
2. Teachers must notify parents in writing when their child is in danger of failing at any time during the grading period, even if the Interim Progress Report period established by the school system has passed. Additional communication should be provided to parents if a student receives more than one letter grade reduction between quarters. Students will receive the grade earned, regardless of notification.

## **REPORT CARDS**

1. Report cards for secondary schools will be distributed on a quarterly basis regardless of the scheduling model used.
2. The following information will appear on the secondary report card:
  - a. School Name
  - b. Course Titles
  - c. Course Grades Earned
  - d. Assessment Status

- e. Student Grade Level
- f. Absences from School
- g. Tardiness from School
- h. Teachers' Names
- i. Comment
- j. Service-Learning Hours Status

## **PARENT CONFERENCES**

1. By the end of the first grading period, teachers in secondary schools will identify those students whose progress suggests that a parent/guardian conference should be conducted in the best interest of the student and his or her achievement and school performance. Teachers will recommend a conference to the parent and may refer the parent to the Professional School Counselor for scheduling.
2. Parent/guardian conferences are encouraged at any time during the school year if the conference will enhance the parent's/guardian's understanding of and support for their child's schoolwork and school performance.

## **OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

The student is responsible for paying for any educational materials such as textbooks or laptops assigned to him or her that are not returned or are damaged. Reimbursement fees for lost or damaged educational materials collected by the school must be remitted to the Accounting Office of Prince George's County Public Schools. At the end of each school year, school staff will provide notification to the parent that an obligation is owed. For students who are on Free and Reduced Meals, parents may request a fee waiver for a portion of the cost. Report cards and final grades may not be withheld due to outstanding financial obligations. We strongly encourage all financial obligations to be fulfilled before a student's senior year.

## **STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

1. Federal law requires that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams develop IEPs for all students who receive special education and related services. The IEP goals and objectives are based on student needs and should be designed to allow the student to progress in the general education curriculum, as appropriate, with the identified supports and accommodations.
2. Teachers will implement the accessibility features and accommodations that have been documented in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities. Accommodations and Accessibility Features must be selected on the basis of the individual student's need and must be used consistently for daily instruction and local and state mandates. The Maryland Assessment, Accessibility, and Accommodations Policy Manual provides guidance for selecting the appropriate accommodation. The student shall not receive a lower grade on class assignments, projects, tests and quizzes as result of receiving their approved accommodation and modification documented in the student's IEP. In the event a student with a disability is in jeopardy of failing a subject, an IEP meeting must be held to review and revise the IEP as appropriate.
3. There is no waiver for the physical education credit requirement. However, there are modifications one may make based on physical limitations or disabilities. Students may participate in a modified program of physical education based upon individual needs. This requires an individual program be adapted to assist students with any modifications necessary. This program would have to be approved by the physical education teacher, supervisor, and Adapted Physical Education Office for these modifications to be developed.
4. Students with disabilities who are working toward a diploma will:
  - a. Have access to instructional and assessment accommodations in both general and special education

settings, as specified on the IEP, to allow them to progress in the general education curriculum.

b. Receive grades based on progress in the general curriculum, with accommodations, as identified on the IEP.

c. Receive the same report card as is used in general education.

d. Receive a report of progress related to IEP goals and objectives, in addition to the report card.

5. General and special educators who are teaching in a co-taught class will jointly determine the grades for students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

6. If the special educator or related service provider is the designated primary instructor for a subject, he or she will determine the grade in that subject area.

7. Students with significant cognitive disabilities, who are working toward a Maryland Certificate of Program Completion, shall be instructed, assessed and graded on alternate academic outcomes that are linked to the Maryland College and Career Ready State Standards requiring substantial adaptation and modification of grade-level content in the general education curriculum. Students will receive a report of progress related to IEP goals and objectives in addition to the report card.

## **STUDENTS RECEIVING ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) SERVICES**

1. Title III of the Every Student Succeeds Act requires that English Learners (ELs) make progress with their English Language Proficiency, attain English proficiency, and meet the same challenging state academic content and student achievement standards as all children are expected to meet.

2. Teachers will implement the accommodations that have been documented in the student's Accommodations Documentation for English Learners. Accommodations must be selected on the basis of the individual student's English proficiency level and must be used consistently for daily instruction and local and state mandated assessments (Maryland Accommodations Manual, MSDE).

3. Students receiving ESOL services will:

a. Have access to instructional modifications and assessment accommodations in both the general education classroom and ESOL classroom, as specified in the Accommodations Documentation for EL Students, to allow them to make academic progress in both settings.

b. Receive grades based on performance on activities and classroom assessments appropriate to the language proficiency level of the student. ELs cannot receive a failing grade based solely on their English proficiency.

c. Receive the same report card as is used in general education.

4. Content area teachers and ESOL teachers must collaborate throughout the quarter and determine instructional modifications as appropriate.

## **TRANSFER STUDENTS STUDENTS ENTERING PGCPS FROM OUT OF DISTRICT**

This Administrative Procedure in its entirety is applicable to transfer students.

1. Students must attend a PGCPS high school for one full semester preceding graduation to receive a high school diploma from the newly attended school. Exceptions may be made if this creates undue hardship for a transferring student or special education student in a state-approved, non-public program. The Chief Executive Officer or designee may arrange to have credits transferred back to a student's prior high school in order for the student to graduate from the prior high school. This option would have to be approved by the prior school or school system.

## 2. Accredited/Approved School Transfers

- a. For students who transfer into Prince George’s County Public Schools from an accredited/approved school during a marking period, the classroom teacher will average any officially documented grades from the accredited/approved school with grades earned in PGCPS for a similar course to determine a marking period grade. These circumstances may require a grade override for which documentation must be on file (see Administrative Procedure 5116).
- b. For students entering PGCPS with quarter and final grades from an accredited/approved school, PGCPS grade and/or transcript managers will record the grades and weights as earned from the other school system where equivalents are available in PGCP (see Grading Elements). Where PGCP equivalents are not available, grade and/or transcript managers may consult with the school principal to identify the nearest available equivalent. Courses that earn high school credit are only those courses approved by PGCP and for which all prerequisites are met. For example, plus and minus signs are not available in SchoolMAX so the letter grade only may be recorded; final grades are reported as letter grades. PGCP system personnel cannot alter or make annotations to official transcripts provided by other accredited/approved schools or school systems. As the record may look different, parents and students are encouraged to submit the transcripts for each school system attended when providing records to other entities.
- c. Under the direction of the Office of Professional School Counseling, schools will update the records of each student who enters the school system without quarter grades as best they can with the available information or per the N grade process below. It will be the responsibility of the school registrar to request the student records including an official transcript from the sending school. The Professional School Counselor will then award grades based on the official transcript review. After a thorough search, if no grades can be located then the student may be registered in accordance with Administrative Procedure 5111.
- d. Transfer Students do not have grade entry through a grade change process. The transcript manager is responsible for entering final grade data received from the school counselor after he/she has identified the equivalent courses for our district on the pramming sheet. If the student transfers mid-year, the grade manager adds quarter grades for quarters that have already passed. If the transfer is mid-quarter, the classroom teacher in the same content area averages the grades from the sending school with the grades from the entering class. In all cases for transfer students, original records from the sending school must be filed without annotation in the student cumulative folder.
- e. The N grade may be used for transfer students only when grades cannot be obtained. The enrollment date determines the action taken to enter grades for the transfer student (see chart below). For any student receiving a final grade of N, the Professional School Counselor must determine if the course should be repeated to meet graduation requirements. The final grade N has zero credit value.

Example of N for Year Long Course:

	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Final Grade
	Progress Report	Quarter Grade	Progress Report	Quarter Grade	Progress Report	Quarter Grade	Progress Report	Quarter Grade	
Enrolls after 1st quarter and before 2nd quarter progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	(published from grade book)	D (published from grade book)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	C
Enrolls 2nd quarter after progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (overridden by teacher)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	N

	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Final Grade
Enrolls 3rd quarter before progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	N
Enrolls 3rd quarter after progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (overridden by teacher)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	N
Enrolls 4th quarter before progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	N
Enrolls 4th quarter after progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (overridden by teacher)	N

### Example of N for First Semester Course

Transfer student	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Final Grade
	Progress Report	Quarter Grade	Progress Report	Quarter Grade	
Enrolls 1st quarter before progress report grades publish	(published from grade book)	D (published from grade book)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	C
Enrolls 1st quarter after progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (overridden by teacher)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	N
Enrolls 2nd quarter before progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	N
Enrolls 2nd quarter after progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (overridden by teacher)	N

### Example of N for Second Semester Course

Transfer student	Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Final Grade
	Progress Report	Quarter Grade	Progress Report	Quarter Grade	
Enrolls 3rd quarter before progress report grades publish	(published from grade book)	D (published from grade book)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	C
Enrolls 3rd quarter after progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (overridden by teacher)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	N
Enrolls 4th quarter before progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	(published from grade book)	B (published from grade book)	N
Enrolls 4th quarter after progress report grades publish	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (entered by Grade Manager)	N (overridden by teacher)	N

f. Transfer grades where the grading scale is different from PGCPSS will be converted to PGCPSS equivalencies. (For example, when a student arrives with a transfer grade of 65 and the report card indicates that 65 is a Failing grade (E/F), the student's grade is converted to an E in PGCPSS.)



- g. The grades from the originating school are included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average.
  - h. PGCPs does not record the final grades from sending elementary or middle schools on the PGCPs student information system with the exception of high school credit courses.
3. Non-Accredited or Unapproved School Transfers
    - a. Students who transfer into PGCPs from non-accredited or unapproved schools that do not hold a Certificate of Approval from the State Board of Education or private accreditation will not be granted credit unless they pass a subject area test administered through the Department of Testing, Research and Evaluation. Subject area tests have limited availability.
    - b. Professional School Counselors must contact the Department of Testing, Research and Evaluation staff to schedule tests.
  4. International Transfers: Only the counselors of the International Student Admissions and Enrollment Office (ISAEO) evaluate international student records for grade level and the awarding of high school credit.
  5. A parent/guardian who desires to enroll a child in Prince George’s County Public Schools from home schooling shall complete the Home Schooling Transfer Form and have the form endorsed by the Home Schooling Office. The parent/guardian will take the completed Home Schooling Transfer Form to enroll the student in public school. (See Administrative Procedure 5113.5)
  6. Students who have taken online courses without pre-approval must provide evidence and a description of the online courses to the Professional School Counselor who must send a request for review with the evidence and description to the appropriate department within the Division of Academics before credit can be granted to the student.
  7. Questions about transfer students’ grades should be referred to the Office of Professional School Counselors.

## **DROPPED COURSES**

1. When a student withdraws from a credit-bearing course on or after the first day of the beginning of a course, Form PS-141 (Course Withdrawal Form) must be completed in all cases.
2. A student may not withdraw from a course after twenty (20) school days in a year-long course (ten (10) school days in a semester course). Exceptional cases will be referred to the school principal for review and final determination.
3. If a student drops a course within the first 20 school days in a year-long course (ten (10) school days in a semester course), there will be no record of the course or grade on any official school system documents.
4. In exceptional cases where the school principal has determined that a student may withdraw from a course after the twentieth (20th) school day (ten (10) school days in a semester course), the school principal or the principal’s designee will complete the Course Withdrawal Request Form, PS-141 and the grade recorded will be a “W”.
5. Grades from dropped courses may be transferred only to new courses of the same content area.

## **REPEATED COURSES**

1. Except in specific cases such as most electives, if a student repeats a high school credit-bearing course then the higher attempt will be the grade of record.
2. If a student repeats a course, school personnel must go into SchoolMAX and set the first course’s earned credit to zero, attempted credit to zero, and the flag to exclude to “yes,” then the first course is excluded from the GPA. The grade and the course remain on the transcript. The higher of the two grades will be the grade of record. (Note: If the second attempt is a lower grade than the first attempt, school personnel will change the credit back to the first attempt for the course and the flag for the second attempt to “Yes” so that it is excluded from the GPA.)

3. If a student has earned high school credit for a course taken and passed in middle school and/or high school, the course may not be repeated in high school without written consent from the parent or guardian. This written consent must be kept in the student's cumulative folder for future review if necessary.
4. This procedure does not require schools to accommodate students who desire to repeat courses during the school day. Courses may be repeated through a credit recovery or an online program opportunity. The principal or designee should work with the student and counselor to review all requests. The principal or designee must give final approval to any student who requests or is in need of a repeat class. Refer to Administrative Procedure 5182 Educational Online Program for additional information.

## **PROCEDURES FOR GRADE APPEAL AUTHORIZATION OF GRADE CHANGE REFER TO A.P. 5116**

Report card grades must be appealed in writing within five (5) school days upon receipt of a report card by the parent/guardian, Appeals and Grade Change Authorization are addressed in A.P. 5116; please refer to this procedure for details regarding these actions.

## **PRINTING AND REQUESTS FOR REPRINTS**

The IT technician in each school will coordinate progress report and report card reprints with the Help Desk and the Help Desk will inform Student Applications. Requests for reprints must include the reason for the reprint, the area office for the school, and the preference for reprint by school or by grade level.

## **MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE**

In an effort to ensure that the grading and reporting process applied consistently within schools, the following monitoring tools and processes will be utilized annually.

1. Principals or their designees will oversee a process by which all staff members will review the grading and reporting procedures prior to students arrival at the beginning of each school year. A record containing staff signatures to signify completion of this task will be kept on file in the principal's office for four (4) years.
2. Principals, or their designees, will oversee a process by which an online or hard copy of the course of study/ syllabus for each course is made available to parents/guardians by the end of the second week a class/course begins.
3. Principals, or their designees, will utilize APEX reports to ensure that entry of numerical grades per week in the electronic gradebook for each student is in compliance with this administrative procedure.
4. At the mid-way point and at the end of each quarter, Area Office staff will generate a report of all electronic gradebooks with no grades in the classwork, independent assignments and/or assessment categories for principal and teacher notification and generate a report of all grades for compliance with this procedure.
5. At the mid-way point and at the end of each quarter, Area Office staff will generate a report of all electronic gradebooks with the N grade to ensure final grade compliance with this procedure.
6. Refer to Administrative Procedure 5113 for monitoring and accountability processes that will be utilized to ensure compliance with the Student Attendance, Absence and Truancy procedure.
7. Refer to Administrative Procedure 5116 for monitoring and accountability processes that will be utilized to ensure compliance with the Grade Change Authorization and Appeals procedure.

## **RELATED PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION**

Administrative Procedure 5111 Registration and Withdrawal of Students; Administrative Procedure 5111.2 Admission of Students from Non-Approved or Non-Accredited Schools; Administrative Procedure 5113, Student Attendance, Absence, and Truancy; Administrative Procedure 5113.5, Home Schooling; Administrative Procedure 5116, Grade Change Authorization; Administrative Procedure 5121.1, Grading and Reporting for Elementary Schools, Early Childhood Through Grade Five; Administrative Procedure 5121.2, Grading and Reporting for Middle Schools, Grade Six Through Grade Eight; Administrative Procedure 5125, Individual Student School-Based Records; Administrative Procedure 5128, Selection of Valedictorians and Salutatorians; Administrative Procedure 5182, Educational Online Program; Administrative Procedure 6150, Student Enrollment in Courses and Educational Requirements and Options in Secondary Schools; Administrative Procedure 6155, Dual Enrollment Program; Administrative Procedure 6186 International High Schools: Admission, Grading and Reporting; Administrative Procedure 10101, Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook; Student Records Guidelines Manual.

## **LEGAL REFERENCE**

COMAR 13A.03.02.08

## **MAINTENANCE AND UPDATE OF THESE PROCEDURES**

The Office of the Chief Academic Officer will be responsible for updating these procedures as needed.

## **CANCELLATIONS AND SUPERSEDES**

This Administrative Procedure cancels and supersedes Administrative Procedure 5121.3, dated August 19, 2022 .

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

July 1, 2023