

Weighted Grades

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Thank you

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Board of Education Goal

“A study of, and recommendation, regarding weighted
grading”

Scotia - Glenville Central School District Mission Statement

The Scotia - Glenville Central School District is committed to providing an environment which allows students to realize their full potential and thus prepares them for life in an ever - changing world. In the tradition of excellence, Board of Education, administration, staff, parents, business and community members will continue to ensure that our educational system fulfills the needs of our students .



Weighted Grades : Guiding Questions



What is a weighted grade?

- What do grades represent?
- How do you weight a grade?
- Which classes can be weighted?



Why consider weighted grades?

- Pros / cons
- Regional comparison
- What do colleges think?



What impact would weighted grades have?

- Weighted grade simulation

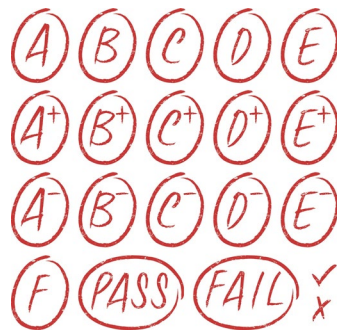


What is the next step?

- District recommendation
- Next steps

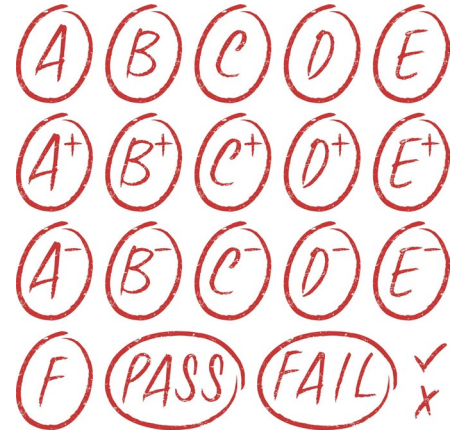
Grading

- 0 - 100 point grade scale
- High school grade policy:
 - Balance of teacher autonomy and horizontal alignment
 - Grade floors
 - Homework / classwork



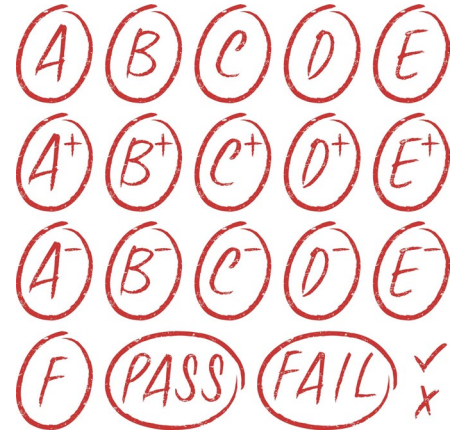
Grading

- What does a grade represent?
 - A. Progress towards grade level standards
 - B. Effort
 - C. Responsibility
 - D. Attendance
 - E. External factors
 - F. All of the above



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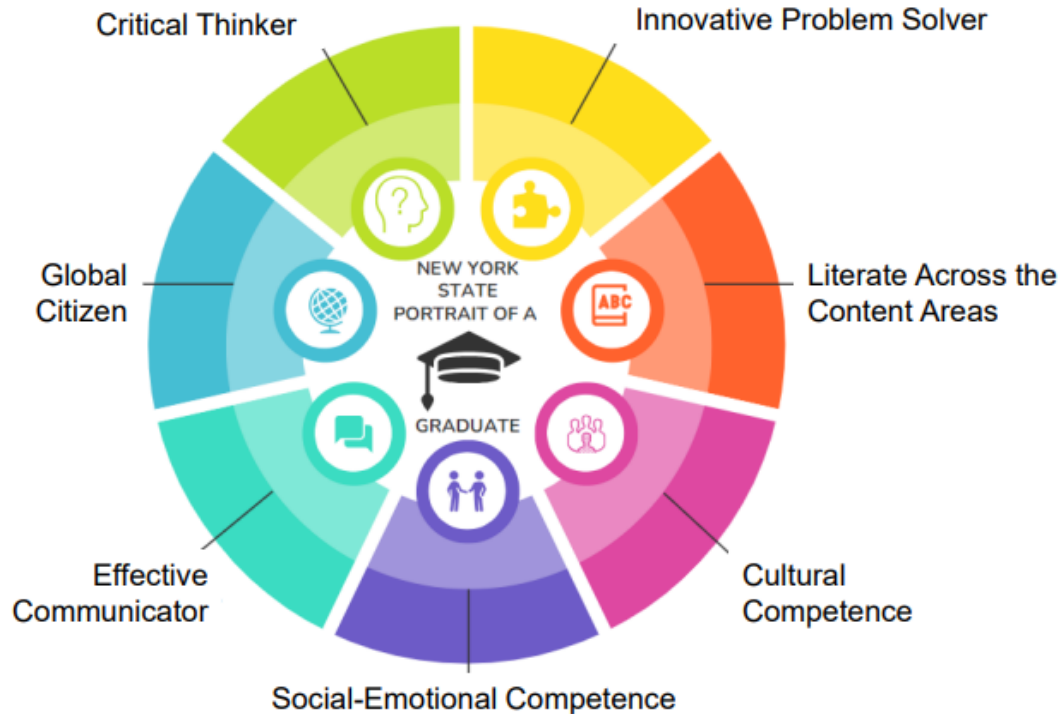


**FIGURE 31:
ATTRIBUTES
EMPLOYERS SEEK
ON A CANDIDATE'S
RESUME**

Attribute	% of Respondents
Problem-solving skills	88.7%
Ability to work in a team	78.9%
Communication skills (written)	72.7%
Strong work ethic	71.6%
Flexibility/adaptability	70.1%
Communication skills (verbal)	67.5%
Technical skills	67.0%
Analytical/quantitative skills	66.0%
Initiative	65.5%
Detail-oriented	61.3%
Interpersonal skills (relates well to others)	58.2%
Computer skills	54.6%
Leadership	52.1%
Organizational ability	44.8%
Strategic planning skills	34.5%
Friendly/outgoing personality	25.8%
Creativity	21.6%
Tactfulness	21.1%
Entrepreneurial skills/risk-taker	18.6%
Fluency in a foreign language	5.2%

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers 2024 Job Outlook

Portrait of a Graduate



All students must demonstrate proficiency in each component of the Portrait of a Graduate to earn a high school diploma.

3

Full Implementation and Scaling Up

Fall 2029+



Cohort Phase-In

- New system will be phased in beginning with students who enter grade 9 in 2029-2030 (Cohort 2029)



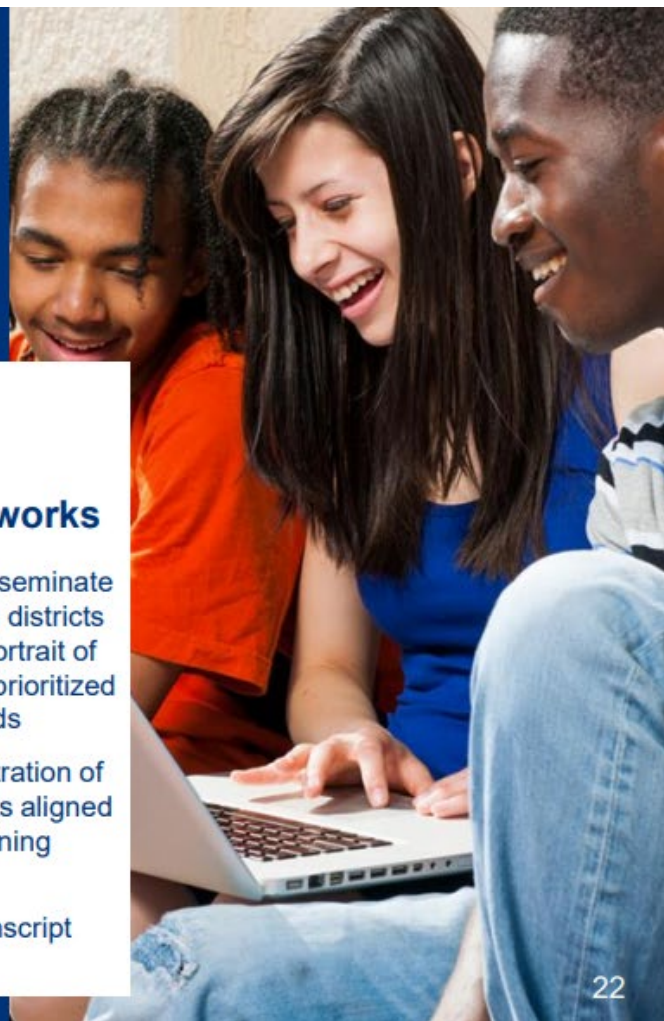
New Statewide Transcript

- New statewide transcript requirements
- Transcript will document proficiency in both Portrait of a Graduate and prioritized learning standards



Support Networks

- Highlight and disseminate best practices as districts implement the Portrait of a Graduate and prioritized learning standards
- Support administration of new assessments aligned to prioritized learning standards
- Support new transcript requirements



What is a Weighted Grade?

Definition - Course grade given extra “weight” according to the assigned challenge level of the class.

Example: Student earns a 90 overall average in AP World History.

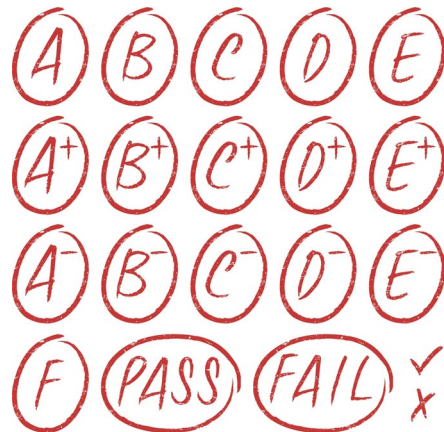
Unweighted - 90 % on High School transcript

Weighted (2.5% or 1.025 multiplier) - 92.25 % on High School transcript

What is a Weighted Grade?

Extra weight can be given to any or all of the following type of classes:

- Advanced Placement
- College in the High School
- Honors



AP Offerings		
AP Biology	College in the HS Offerings	<i>(SUNY or SUPA)</i>
AP Calculus	SUPA Physics	French I
AP Calculus BC	SUPA Accounting	French II
AP Computer Science A	Entrepreneurship	Spanish I
AP Computer Science B	Business Math	Spanish II
AP Economics	College Composition	German
AP Literature and Comp	Child Growth and Dev	
AP Language and Comp	Drawing & Painting II	
AP Psychology	Precalculus	Honors Classes
AP Stats	Chemistry	English9
AP US History	Advertising & Marketing	English10
AP World History	Computer Software Applications	Global9

What is a Weighted Grade?

Weighted grades can be used to calculate the overall cumulative GPA and / or Class Rank on a HS transcript.

Class Rank at SG:

- Internal metric available to students when applying to college or for scholarship
- High Academic Scholarship Award

Decreasing value has been placed on class rank by Higher Ed Institutions.

Common Application

Academics

Class Rank 10 (Exact) **Class size** 156 **Covering a period from (mm/yyyy)** 09/2021 **to** 06/2024

The rank is ☐ weighted ☒ unweighted. How many additional students share this rank? 0

Cumulative GPA: 97.694 on a 100 scale, covering a period from (mm/yyyy) 09/2021 **to** 06/2024

This GPA is ☐ weighted ☒ unweighted. The school's passing mark is: 65

Highest GPA in class 98.358

IB Diploma Candidate? ☐ Yes ☒ No Advanced Cambridge (AICE) Diploma Candidate? ☐ Yes ☒ No

AP Capstone Diploma Candidate? ☐ Yes ☒ No

In comparison with other college preparatory students at your school, the applicant's course selection is:

☒ Most demanding ☐ Very demanding ☐ Demanding ☐ Average ☐ Less than demanding

☐ Prefer not to respond

Ratings

No Basis		Below Average	Average	Good (above average)	Very Good (well above average)	Excellent (top 10%)	Outstanding (top 5%)	Top Few
	Academic Achievement					✓		
	Extracurricular Accomplishments					✓		
	Personal qualities and character					✓		
	OVERALL					✓		

I recommend this student: ☐ No basis ☐ With Reservation ☐ Fairly Strongly ☐ Strongly ☒ Enthusiastically

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

Regional Comparison:

~ 50 % of Foothills Council Districts have some form of weighted grades

~ 50 % of Capital Region Districts have some form of weighted grades

Admissions counselors say it is a 50-50 split on schools across NYS

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

Use **Weighted** Grades *7 districts*

- Mohonasen
- East Greenbush
- Shenendehowa
- Schenectady
- CBA
- Guilderland
- Burnt Hills

Use **Unweighted** Grades *9 districts*

- Bethlehem
- South Colonie
- Ballston Spa
- Niskayuna
- Troy
- Averill Park
- Albany
- North Colonie
- Saratoga

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

There is no standard system of weighted grades. Some districts who do weight grades show both the weighted and unweighted GPA on their transcript.

Examples of weighted grade systems:

1. All school related activities/ decisions use Unweighted GPA. Weighted GPA for parent and student use only. Math: Honors = 1.02%, College = 1.04 %.
1. Show both weighted and unweighted GPA/ Rank on transcript. Math: Honors = 1.03 %, College = 1.06 %.
1. Show both weighted and unweighted GPA/ Rank. Math: Honors = 1.025

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

Pros

- More students challenge themselves to take rigorous coursework and are rewarded for their efforts
- Potential for higher class rank for those who take more demanding classes
- Potential to earn a scholarship for those taking more rigorous classes
 - No impact on local SG scholarships

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

Cons

- Grading is highly variable between districts - Colleges know this and have created their own internal admissions systems and level the “GPA playing field”
- Weighted grades may discourage students from taking classes / electives that don't carry weight - this could lead to declines in enrollment
- College and honors courses have varying amounts of rigor, making it difficult to assign a fair / consistent weight
- Weighted grades may create even more strain and unhealthy competition amongst high achieving students
- The achievement gap between students in weighted classes and those who are not in weighted classes will be exacerbated

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

2023 - 2024 School Year	Overall Average
High School - All Classes	85 %
AP Classes	91 %

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

2023 - 2024 School Year	Scale	Average	Letter Grade Equivalent
AP Exam Score Avg	0 - 5	3.4	B- or C+
AP Classes GPA	0 - 100 %	91 %	A -

* SG outperformed NYS on 7 of 12 AP exams in '24

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

2023 - 2024 School Year	% Free-Reduced Price Lunch
AP Enrollment	16
Total High School Enrollment	35

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

Feedback from local Colleges and Universities:

“We understand that a slightly lower grade in a higher level course is just as good as a high grade in a regular regents level course.”

“Additionally, we do recalculate each student’s GPA to align with our University Core GPA, as we understand many high schools weigh their students' grades differently.”

“We look for congruence between test scores and class scores.”

Why Consider Weighted Grades?

Feedback from local Colleges and Universities:

“Overall preference is students taking the most challenging coursework they can.”

“For the admissions criteria, we look at the individual courses, their rigor, and the grades. We of course look at the overall GPA too, but we don’t just see a high GPA and automatically admit. We still go through and make sure that the coursework is reflective of the student and the GPA.”

NACAC

National Association for
College Admission Counseling



For the Fall 2023 admission cycle, NAAC member 4-year colleges reported the most important factors in the admission decisions were grades in High School and strength of the High School Curriculum. Top 3 Factors:

1. *High school grades in college prep courses*

1. *Total high school grades (all courses)*

1. *Strength of high school*

PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2023

	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
High school grades in college prep courses	185	76.8	15.1	4.9	3.2
Total high school grades (all courses)	185	74.1	18.9	5.4	1.6
Strength of high school curriculum	185	63.8	22.7	10.3	3.2
Positive character attributes	184	28.3	37.5	18.5	15.8
Essay or writing sample	185	18.9	37.3	26.5	17.3
Student's interest in attending	185	15.7	27.6	25.4	31.4
Counselor recommendation	185	11.9	40.0	27.6	20.5
Teacher recommendation	185	10.8	40.5	28.1	20.5
Extracurricular activities	185	6.5	44.3	30.8	18.4
High school class rank	183	5.5	22.4	43.2	29.0
Admission test scores (ACT, SAT)	185	4.9	25.4	38.9	30.8
Portfolio	185	4.9	10.8	24.3	60.0
Interview	185	4.3	8.6	32.4	54.6
Work	185	2.2	30.8	40.0	27.0
State graduation exam scores	185	1.6	6.5	18.4	73.5
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	185	1.1	22.2	25.9	50.8

What impact would Weighted Grades have?

- Class of '24 Cohort Weighted Grade Simulation:
 - 2.5 % weight added to GPA's in all HS honors and college level classes

Top 10 % of the Cohort

- Unweighted GPA = 97.07 %
- Weighted GPA = 97.80 %
- .73 % increase in GPA if weighted
- Greatest increase = 96.03 % → 97.53 % (1.5 % increase)

	Unweighted Average	Weighted Average	Increase in GPA
Top 50 % of Cohort	93.46 %	94.02 %	.56 %
Bottom 50 % of Cohort	77.25 %	77.39 %	.14 %

Closing Thoughts: Full Potential & Excellence

Student A

- Graduating Senior
- All Regents Classes
- Regents Diploma

92 % average

Student B

- Graduating Senior
- Combo of Regents, Honors, and AP Courses
- Advanced Regents Diploma

92 % average

Student C

- Graduating Senior
- CTE Pathway - ½ day at Cap Region BOCES
- Regents Diploma + Welding Certificate

92 % average

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~~92 % average~~
93.25 % average

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92 % average

Closing Thoughts

- Weighted grades could potentially provide a benefit to college admission and scholarship attainment
- Weighted grades will widen the achievement gap between those students taking college-level classes and those whom do not
- Weighting grades will have a relatively small impact on overall GPA
- Weighting grades places greater value on college courses
- Our teachers take great care in making sure each student's grade is reflective of their achievement in that specific course

Next Steps

1. Discuss weighted grades with High School Faculty and Administration at May 5 Faculty Meeting. Survey staff that week. Provide formal recommendation at May 12 BOE.
1. Consider reducing or eliminating the financial barrier for AP / College in the HS class entry.
1. Consider moving to using decile rank (ex. Top 10 % of the class) on the Common App.
1. Grading practice is a critical component of Operation Graduation and will be a standing agenda item for 25-26.



Thank You!