
Purpose

To establish procedures for determining grade point averages and class rankings for all students working toward a Maryland High School Diploma.

Definitions

- A. *Course Level* indicates the rigor of the course (i.e., Advanced Placement, Early College/Dual Enrollment, Honors, and Academic).
- B. *Advanced Placement (AP)* courses include content in the Advanced Placement Course Outline approved by the College Board. College credit is awarded based on the AP test score and the standards set by the receiving college/university. Advanced placement courses are designated in the *ACPS Program of Study Booklet*. All AP courses are graded on a “weighted” scale (e.g., A=5; B=4; C=3; D=1; F=0).
- C. *Early College/Dual Enrollment on-site* courses include syllabi content that represents the high common standards between ACPS and the cooperating college. Successful completion (a grade of D or better) awards the student ACPS credit and local college credit hours. A grade of D on a college transcript may not be transferable to other higher education institutions. Early College/Dual Enrollment on-site courses are designated in the *ACPS Program of Study Booklet*. All Early College/Dual Enrollment on-site courses are graded on a “weighted” scale (e.g., A=5; B=4; C=3; D=1; F=0). Early College/Dual Enrollment on-site courses taken prior to the 2010-11 school year do not receive “weighted” credit and are on a 4.0 scale.
- D. *Honors* courses are those high school courses which include Maryland State and/or National Standards or core content from the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and include an increased emphasis on the synthesis of content knowledge demonstrated by an integration of reading and writing processes. Honors courses are designated in the *ACPS Program of Study Booklet*. All honors courses are graded on a “weighted” scale (e.g., A=4.5; B=3.5; C=2.5; D=1; F=0). Honors courses taken prior to the 2010-11 school year do not receive “weighted” credit and are on a 4.0 scale.
- E. *Academic* courses are those high school courses which include Maryland State and/or National Standards or core content identified in the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards. Academic courses are graded on a “non-weighted” scale (e.g., A=4; B=3; C=2; D=1; F=0).
- F. *Credit* is a completed unit of study. *Credits* will only be awarded and recognized as full or half units.
- G. *Quality Points* are the designated numerical value of letter grades as noted above with regard to weighted and non-weighted scales. *Quality Points* earned in half credit courses are worth .5 of the letter grade weight.
- H. *Cumulative GPA* is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points a student has earned by the total number of credits attempted (quality points for half credit courses are worth 0.5 of the letter grade weight). Cumulative GPA is calculated and posted to the student transcript at the conclusion of each semester.
- I. *Marking Period GPA* is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points a student has earned during the marking period by the total number of courses attempted by the student during the given marking period. For marking period GPA calculations, quality points are worth the full credit of the letter grade weight, regardless of whether or not the class is a full or half credit course. Marking Period GPA is not posted to the student transcript. However, Marking Period GPA is used at the school level for purposes not limited to but including eligibility for athletics and extra-curricular activities.

Policy Statement

A system of grading, including weighted grades for advanced placement courses, early college/dual enrollment on-site and honors, will be applied to all school system courses and will be utilized for purposes of eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities.

This grading system will be designated on all student transcripts. The student transcript will reflect a cumulative grade point average (GPA).

Legal Reference			
Policy History	Adopted	Reviewed	Revised Feb. 12, 2013 1 st Reading Mar. 12, 2013 2 nd Reading Jan. 8, 2019, 1 st Reading, Tabled Nov. 5, 2019, 1 st Reading Dec. 10, 2019, 2 nd Reading