

**5520****GRADING SYSTEM****5520**

The formal issuance of grades through symbols on a regular basis is authorized by the board in order to promote a process of continuous evaluation of student performance, to inform the student, her/his parents, and counselor of the student's progress, and to provide a basis for bringing about improvement in student performance, where such change seems necessary.

- 5520.1 Meaningful evaluation shall include consideration of all activity that has occurred during the particular evaluation period. Such activities should include (1) homework, (2) projects, (3) reports, (4) class participation, and (5) tests which shall include unit tests. In addition to the above activities, examinations shall be administered at the conclusion of each course which offers credit toward high school graduation. In traditional schedule schools and other schools that offer year long courses, an examination shall also be administered at the mid-point of the course. A teacher made examination, a state required end-of-course assessment, or a VoCats assessment shall satisfy these requirements. The relative value attached to any activity shall be determined by the importance of the activity toward achieving the course objectives.
- 5520.2 Parental conferences are a valuable method of reporting to parents. Conferences regarding a student's progress in a particular class shall include the teacher of that class.
- 5520.3 Parents shall be notified by the midpoint of each grading period if a student is failing a course or if his course grade has declined by a letter grade.

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Adopted: August 21, 1978  
Revised: February 15, 1988  
Revised: June 20, 2006

The grading system in Wake County Public Schools is consistent across departments, grade levels and schools. It is an evaluation of each student's academic performance. To ensure the effectiveness of this policy, the Board of Education endorses these beliefs and practices:

**A. Grading System:**

1. The purpose of a grading system is to accurately and consistently measure and communicate an individual student's level of mastery of defined curriculum objectives.
2. While attendance and non-academic related behaviors influence student learning, they are reported separately and will not be included in a student's academic grade.
3. All WCPSS grading and reporting practices will support the learning and teaching process and encourage success for all students.

**B. Assessments:**

1. All assessments and assignments will be aligned with state/district adopted standards and /or curriculum and be designed to accurately assess student achievement.
2. Accurate and consistent evaluation of academic achievement shall employ multiple formative and summative assessments to determine a student's level of mastery of curriculum objectives.

**C. Communication:**

1. Teachers will provide students and their parents/guardians with clear explanations of their grading practices.
2. Teachers will provide each student with ongoing specific feedback to promote learning, self evaluation, and growth.
3. Communication between teachers, parents, and students will be timely, including ongoing system-wide mechanisms for communication of student progress and grades.

**GRADING PERIOD/INTERIMS/REPORT CARDS**

In grades K-12, report cards are issued to students every nine weeks. Interim reports are issued to all students at the mid-point of each quarter. In grades 6-12, student progress is updated weekly in the Student/Parent Access Network (SPAN).