



Public Schools of North Carolina

# **Academic Policy Webinar**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2020**

**Overview of SBE Policy on K-11  
Grading, Graduating Seniors, and  
Promotion/Retention**

# Welcome and Introductions

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*Special thanks to the NCDPI Grading Workgroup*





## Today's topics

- Setting the Stage
- Based on SBE approval, 4/23/2020
  - K-5 Grading
  - 6-8 Grading
  - 9-11 Grading
- Revisiting Graduating Seniors Grading
- Promotion/Retention Guidance
- Next Steps and Implementation Toolkit

# Setting the Stage

*School buildings are closed... but school is on!*

NCDPI encourages LEAs and Charters to continue providing a variety of remote learning opportunities to engage all students until the end of the academic year.

It is paramount to remember the unprecedented condition students are learning in and to focus on engagement and feedback more than evaluation.



# Setting the Stage

*Workgroup Guiding Principles were to:*

- To develop a statewide grading policy that positively impacts as many students as possible, with grace and generosity;
- To understand that no grading policy will solve issues of inequities that typically exist in communities and schools, especially when the school building environment and teacher access are not in place as equalizing and supportive factors;



# Setting the Stage

## *Workgroup Guiding Principles cont'*

- To validate the efforts of students, families, teachers, and support staff during remote learning;
- To mitigate potential negative impact of COVID-19 remote learning as much as possible on student grading;
- To address stakeholder concerns, including those from students and parents; and
- To remember that all voices may not be at the table.



# Setting the Stage

*Policy is responsive to:*

- Providing feedback and engagement to support continued student growth and well-being and not just evaluation;
- Equity and excellence issues regarding access to learning environment as well as student growth and achievement; and
- Extending grace and generosity through flexibility and varied learning opportunities.



# Setting the Stage

## *Input received from:*

- SBE and Superintendent Student Advisors
- District Superintendents and Charter School leaders
- UNC System and NCICU Admission/Enrollment Leaders
- CAO Advisory Group
- SBE Teacher/Principal Advisors
- Students/families, initiated by public
- Internal NCDPI staff and regional teams
- Research from other states





# PRIMARY RECOMMENDATION

*Similar to developing a statewide grading policy for graduating seniors...*

In this time of uncertainty, the State Board of Education approved the following policies as consistent, statewide guidance for grading of NC's public school students in Grades K-11.



# Grading Policy for Grades K-5

Focus is on providing feedback not formal grades and supporting students for success.

- Students will not receive final grades in grades K-5
- Instead of a final grade, teachers will provide year-end feedback (teacher to parent/student)
- Teachers will document individual student strengths and needs from both an academic and social/emotional perspective to ensure an effective transition (teacher to teacher)



# Grading Policy for Grades 6-8

- Students will receive a Pass “PC19” or Withdrawal “WC19” for the final course grades for all middle school courses
- PC19 will be assigned to any student who is meeting expectations through the year.
- WC 19 will be assigned to any students who was not meeting expectations through the year.
- A student’s grade will be held harmless for learning after March 13.



# Grading Policy for Grades 6-8 cont'

- WC19 does NOT equate to failing the course or the need for retention.
- Teachers will document individual student strengths and needs from both an academic and social/emotional perspective to ensure an effective transition.



# Grading Policy for Grades 6-8 cont'

- High school courses taken in middle school will follow the grading options presented for high school students.
  - Students will have a choice for PC19/WC19 or a numeric grade for the Spring semester grade.
  - Per SBE policy CCRE-001, numeric grades for high school courses taken in middle school will not be calculated in the high school GPA.



# Grading Policy for Grades 9-11

- Students will be given a choice for how each final course grade will appear on the transcript for both year-long and semester courses currently in progress.
- Students will have two options for each final course grade:
  - Numeric grade, either the highest grade representing learning as of March 13 or as improved through the semester through remote learning
  - or*
  - PC19 or WC19



# Grading Policy for Grades 9-11 cont'

- Students will determine how each final course grade will appear on the transcript at the end of the semester after advising from the teacher/school and in consultation with the parent/guardian.
  - This is done at the end of this academic year.
  - Students can choose different options by course.
  - If students are unreachable, assign a PC19 and then there will be a 45-day grace period when buildings re-open to provide a numeric grade option.



# Grading Policy for Grades 9-11 cont'

- When students choose to report a numeric grade as the final grade on the transcript, the numeric grade WILL be calculated into the cumulative GPA (SBE policy GRAD-009).
- There is no impact on the GPA when using PC19 or WC19.
- If a student chooses PC19 or WC19 for the spring semester of a year-long course, the fall term stored grade will be counted into the GPA.





# Grading Policy for Grades 9-11 cont'

- PC19 does award a full unit of credit. WC19 does not.
  - WC19 does not indicate failing, rather a lack of evidence of mastery of standards.
- Students will NOT receive a failing grade. If a student was failing as of March 13 and was unable to improve, the school will advise the use of WC19.



# Grading Policy for Grades 9-11 cont'

- All options remain on the table for future use including Credit Recovery and Repeating a Course for Credit (SBE-CCRE-001).
- Issuing a temporary grade of “Incomplete” may be used locally when deemed appropriate and when a clear, time-bound plan to complete all course requirements is established.



# Top Questions

NOTE: School is still on for learning. Plan for grading, but remote learning continues so no final grades should be determined at this point.

*Can the required K-8 transition documents be the same as the Parent feedback form?*

Possibly, but very different audiences. NCDPI recommends different forms to meet the purposes effectively.

*What about year-long high school courses?*

Fall grades will be counted as stored in GPA. Spring grades will be counted as stored. Two ½ credits as with graduating seniors. See PS directions.



# Top Questions

*Does this guidance also pertain to Q3 or Q4 grades entered into PS?*

No. This guidance is specific for final grades. LEAs and Charters have flexibility as it pertains to grading before the final grades. Final grades must follow the guidance provided. PS guidance will help you better understand this.

*Can we just wait to put in a grade until Fall 2020 since we can't reach all students?*

No. Complete choices at end of year and default to PC19 if needed. However, there will be a grace period of 45 days to change if needed when buildings reopen. Please consider that many students move during the summer.



# Top Questions

## *What about dual enrollment courses?*

The same guidance applies. We have heard that some instructors are finding it challenging to help students with knowing their grades. We would encourage LEAs/Charters work with their partner colleges to determine how to help students most effectively.

## *Are the colleges/universities ok with this?*

While no one is certain about the future, especially now, UNC System has expressed that this plan is reasonable and they will work with our NC students to mitigate the negative implications of COVID-19.





# Revisiting SBE-approved Guidance for Graduating Seniors (Grades 12-13)

...to graduate high school seniors by meeting minimum SBE graduation requirements of 22 credits on the originally scheduled graduation date.

# Seniors: Fall Courses

Students will receive grades for fall courses as already stored, year-long and semester. Fall grades will count toward GPA.

- For year-long courses (A/B or 7/8 period day), the fall term grade will be counted into the GPA.
- For semester-long courses (4x4), the final course grade will be counted into the GPA.

PowerSchool has issued directions to ensure effective implementation.



# Seniors: Spring Courses

Students will receive a Pass "PC19" or Withdrawal "WC19" based on their learning as of March 13 for spring courses.

- If the student has an F as of March 13 for graduation requirements, districts/schools shall provide remote learning opportunities for the student to improve to a passing grade.
- This includes year-long courses for the Spring semester. Such courses will essentially be divided into two half credits.

PowerSchool has issued directions to ensure effective implementation.





# Seniors: CPR

The CPR requirement for seniors has been waived by the SBE.

NCDPI/SBE will be working with the NCGA for a legislative waiver as well.

PowerSchool will be updated to reflect this change.



# Seniors: OCS

Occupational Course of Study (OCS):

An OCS student must complete a 157 hours of the 225 hours of “paid work hours” graduation requirement.

In EC LiveBinder, lots of support is available.



# Promotion and Retention

- Student promotion and retention will remain the decision of the school principal and staff.
- NCDPI recommends that districts/schools only consider retention of students if the retention consideration process was already well underway prior to March 13 and that there was well-documented communication with the student's family discussing the possibility of retention prior to that date.
- If retention is being considered, best practices apply including the development of an action plan to support the student and inclusion of the parent/guardian.



# Our next steps....

- Distribution of this recorded webinar.
- Review questions captured using a provided survey.
- Provide response to most common questions to the CAO Advisory Group that is meeting with the NCDPI Grading Workgroup on Friday.
- Follow up with the distribution of an Implementation Toolkit.



# Toolkit Components

- Short video by Dr. David Stegall reviewing the policy.
- Updated FAQ based on survey and CAO questions.
- Updated and consolidated Academic Guidance.
- DTL Homebase guidance and recorded directions for PowerSchool.
- Presentation for district/principal use in sharing the policy.
- Google folder to share LEA/Charter examples of transition documents for grades K-8.
- Link to one location with all information gathered, including already-released policy and one-page FAQs (including Spanish translations).





## More questions?

If you have remaining questions, please review the guidance document distributed on 4/23/2020 provided here: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/news/covid-19-response-resources>

Ask a friend/colleague.

If your question remains unanswered, please submit them here: <https://rb.gy/rwgpmi>



Public Schools of North Carolina

*Thank You.*

*Lead with Grace and Generosity...  
for your students... your  
community... and yourselves.*

*NCDPI is grateful for your continued efforts  
and dedication to NC public school students.  
We all wish you, your family, and your  
community the absolute best.*