
Uniform Grading Policy 3.301

The Background:

The Uniform Grading Policy outlines the required uniform grading system to be used by all districts in grades 9-12 for the purposes of application for postsecondary financial assistance. In addition to reporting student grades using the approval uniform grading system, school districts are also permitted to adopt their own local grading systems which can be dually reported on a students' transcript.

Chapter 957 of the *Tennessee Public Acts of 2016* set forth new requirements for locally adopted grading systems. Locally adopted grading systems must now abide by particular requirements for awarding quality points to honors, national industry certification (NIC), statewide dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), Cambridge, International Baccalaureate (IB), and dual enrollment courses.

This proposed item updates the Uniform Grading Policy to reflect the following new requirements for locally adopted grading systems to be implemented beginning with the freshman class of the 2016-17 school year:

- One-half (1/2) quality point shall be added to the numerical quality point value corresponding to the letter grade received for the course in an honors or NIC course;
- Three-fourths (3/4) quality points shall be added to the numerical quality point value corresponding to the letter grade received for the course in a statewide dual credit course; and
- One (1) quality point shall be added to the numerical quality point value corresponding to the letter grade received in the course for an AP, Cambridge, IB, or dual enrollment course.

Since first reading a clause has been added to page 4 of the policy clarifying that the timeline for implementation begins with the 2016-17 freshman class.

The Fiscal Analysis Impact:

T.C.A. § 49-1-212 requires that the Department of Education prepare a fiscal analysis of any policy, rule or regulation proposed to the State Board of Education. This item has no financial impact on an LEA.

The Recommendation:

The Department of Education recommends adoption of this item on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.