

State Board of Community Colleges

Recommendation for Weighted Grade Point Average and Class Rank on High School Transcripts

- Situation:** Under the provisions of S.L. 2013-360, Section 8.10, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee was asked to study the State Board of Education’s policy on calculating the weighted grade point average and class rank on high school transcripts, especially the proper weights for courses taken through community colleges, independent colleges, and universities. Since North Carolina Statute G.S. 116-11 (10a) states that “the grade point average and class rank shall be calculated by a standard method to be devised by the institutions of higher education,” a working group, comprised of UNC, NCCCS, and DPI representatives was asked to review current methods for creating weighted GPA and propose revisions, as appropriate.
- Background:** The working group was appointed in October 2013 and was charged with reviewing the current algorithm for computing weighted GPA, in light of ongoing concerns about grade inflation and the differential weights given to AP (advanced placement), IB (international baccalaureate), and other college courses. After consulting widely with colleagues within North Carolina and at the out-of-state colleges and universities that North Carolina students often attend, recommendations were submitted to the chief academic officers of the two systems. These recommendations were then circulated to all campuses within the two systems and to North Carolina private and independent universities (through Dr. Hope Williams at NCICU) for additional comment. Recommendations coming before the UNC and NCCCU boards reflect modifications to the working group report, reflective of the additional input that was received.
- Assessment:** In order to minimize grade inflation, achieve equal weighting for all college-level courses, and reduce the disincentive for students to take high school courses in areas that do not have honors or AP options, e.g., music and other visual or performing arts, the following weights are proposed:
- AP, IB, and other college courses, including dual enrollment and North Carolina community college transfer courses from the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement – 5 points**
 - Honors course – 4.5 points**
 - Standard course – 4.0 points**
- Action:** This item is for a vote. Upon approval by the BOG and the NCCCS board, the recommended changes will be forwarded to the State Board of Education for review and action.