

STRATFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS INSTRUCTION

Instruction

Grading/Assessment Systems

The primary purpose of grading is to keep parents and students fully informed of a student's progress and to provide a continuous and accurate record of each student's achievement for use in instruction.

It is the philosophy of this district that students respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. The district seeks, therefore, through learner objectives and its instructional program, to make achievement both recognizable and possible for students.

Evaluation of student progress is a primary responsibility of the teacher. The highest possible level of student achievement is a common goal of both school and home. A close working relationship between home and school is essential to the accomplishment of this goal. Regular communication with parents or guardians, utilizing a variety of means, about the scholastic progress of their student is a basic component of this working relationship. It is the responsibility of the school and individual staff members to keep parents or guardians well informed.

Regularly used report cards, combined with scheduled parent-teacher conferences, and other communication vehicles helps promote a process of continuous evaluation of student performance.

Grading and Promotion

The administration and professional staff shall establish a districtwide system of grading, develop procedures of reporting academic achievement to parents and students, and determine when the requirements for promotion and/or graduation have been met (6146).

Policies for sharing progress and feedback will be in alignment with and reflect the Board of Education's Equity and Diversity Policy (0523(A)).

Every teacher shall maintain an evaluation record for each student in the teacher's classroom.

Elementary and Middle School Grading

Elementary

Grading and reporting are based on end of year proficiency levels/targets.

Middle School

Habits of work are graded separately from class standards.

High School Class Ranking and Advanced Courses

The Board of Education is in favor of weighted grading for honors and advanced placement courses. The grading system developed by the administration, subject to board approval, shall reflect this position. Parents and students shall be notified annually of this position. The Stratford Public Schools uses a weighted GPA (Grade Point Average) in order to determine a student's class rank during their time in high school. The weighting scale is listed below. Pass/fail credit will not count toward weighted or unweighted GPA. Starting with the 2021-2022 school year, any transfer credit will not count toward either GPA, but will be reported on students' transcripts..

Starting with the class of 2023,

- Students will have both their weighted and unweighted GPAs included on their transcripts.
- Class rank will be reported in deciles in addition to being reported as a number.
- In order to be a valedictorian or salutatorian, students will need to be enrolled in a Stratford high school for a minimum of two years.

Access to advanced level courses (Honors, AP, Dual Enrollment, etc.) is open to all students who have passed any prerequisite courses listed in the program of studies. In addition, teachers, administrators, school counselors, or other school personnel may recommend students who have shown academic promise and in order to encourage enrollment in an advanced course or program. Assessment scores may be used to identify additional students who may be ready for an advanced level of coursework.

Weighted GPA Scale

As noted in the table below, AP and Dual Enrollment level courses receive a higher weight than Honors and College Prep courses when calculating the Weighted GPA.

All courses receive the same weight for the unweighted GPA which is the College Prep column.

Grade	College Prep	Honors	AP, Dual Enrollment, etc.
A+	4.33	4.67	5
A	4	4.33	4.67
A-	3.67	4	4.33
B+	3.33	3.67	4
B	3	3.33	3.67
B-	2.67	3	3.33
C+	2.33	2.67	3
C	2	2.33	2.67
C-	1.67	2	2.33
D+	1.33	1.67	2
D	1	1.33	1.67
F	0	0	0

Reference CABE Policy 6146.1, 6146.1(a), 6146.1(b)

(cf. 5124 - Reporting to Parents)

(cf. 6141.5 - Advanced College Placement)

(cf. 5124 - Reporting to the Parents)

(cf. 5125 - Student Records)

(cf. 5123 – Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

(cf. 5126 – Academic Recognition)

(cf. 6146.12 – Dual Enrollment and Early College)

(cf. 6146.13 – Multiple Pathways)

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

10-5c Board examination series pilot program. Issuance of certificate (as amended by P.A. 13-247 and P.A. 15-215)

10-14n State-wide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results. (as amended by Section 115 of PA 14-217)

10-16(l) Graduation exercises. (As amended by P.A. 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 10-220g Policy on weighted grades for honors and advanced placement classes

00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill and P.A. 15-237, An Act Concerning High School Graduation.)

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166)

P.A. 13-108 An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.

P.A. 13-247 An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget.

P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation.

Mastery-Based Learning-Guidelines for Implementation, Connecticut State Department of Education, June 3, 2015.

P.A. 99-81 An Act Concerning Weighted Grading for Honors Classes

P.A. 21-199 An Act Concerning Various Revision and Additions to the Statutes Relating to Education and Workforce Development

10-220g Policy on weighted grading for honors and advanced placement classes

1015b Access of parent or guardians to student's records.

10154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse & student.

10209 Records not to be public.

11-8a Retention, destruction and transfer of documents

11-8b Transfer or disposal of public records. State Library Board to adopt regulations.

46b56 (e) Access to Records of Minors.

Connecticut Public Records Administration Schedule V Disposition of Education Records (Revised 1983).

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93568, codified at 20 U.S.C.1232g.).

Dept. of Educ. 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45 FR 30802) regs. implementing FERPA enacted as part of 438 of General Educ. provisions act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)parent and student privacy and other rights with respect to educational records, as amended 11/21/96.

Falvo v. Owasso Ind. Sch. Dist. 99-5130 (10th Circuit-2000)

Owassa Ind. School Dist. v. Falvo, No. 00-1073 (U.S. Sup. CT)

Policy adopted: by the Stratford Board of Education on October 25, 2021