

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

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MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MOORHEAD.

January 30, 2020

Cory Steiner, Superintendent
Northern Cass Schools
16021 18th St. SE
Hunter, ND 58048

Dr. Steiner,

Thank you for coming to MSUM's campus to share with us Northern Cass School's structure for its personalized learning initiative and standards-based grading model. We appreciate you reaching out to MSUM as one of the local universities at which Northern Cass graduates attend. It provided us the chance to inquire about and fully understand your school's innovative programming.

It was very helpful for us to know at the start of the meeting that, even with an alternative grading scale, a GPA will still be provided on your students' transcripts to be reviewed by colleges. This allows us to review all applicants for college readiness, as well as for scholarship eligibility at our school. We understand how the student's Course Proficiency Score will be translated into a GPA equivalent for those purposes, and that a 4.0 is the highest GPA a student can earn.

MSUM will make use of this GPA to evaluate for admission into the university. We will not convert the GPA stated to a separate scale. MSUM has worked with students from high schools with alternative grading scales, and we will continue to utilize the GPA as stated on your students' transcripts. (Specifically, MSUM uses a student's weighted GPA where that is provided.)

Additionally, MSUM will use the provided GPA to determine eligibility for our scholarships. Northern Cass learners will not be disadvantaged in the scholarship process as compared to other learners with traditional grading systems.

We commend the Northern Cass educators for their work in getting their learners ready for college. Please reach out to MSUM if you have any additional questions or updates as you transform your school.

Sincerely,

Tom Reburn
Director of Undergraduate Admissions



January 31, 2020

Cory Steiner, Superintendent
Northern Cass Schools
16021 18 St SE
Hunter, ND 58048-9730

Dr. Steiner,

Mayville State University enjoyed meeting with you for the overview of the Northern Cass School's personalized, competency-based learning model.

MSU understands that Northern Cass will still be able to provide a transcript and GPA for all applicants, and that the transcript will provide the information necessary to make an admission decision.

It is understood that the grading scale may deviate from the traditional model (4=A, 3=B) but it still follows a scale with a 4.0 being the highest GPA a student can earn. As with other schools that employ their own scale to assign grade bands, we will not convert the GPA for these students. We recognize that the grading system employed by Northern Cass reflects your standards, expectations and outcomes.

The students from Northern Cass who are proficient in classes will not have a disadvantage with MSU's current scholarship process. Based on your GPA conversions, students will meet MSU's current GPA requirement for scholarships.

MSU will continue to welcome Northern Cass graduates and pledge to work with you during this conversion process so the present and future graduates have opportunities to be admitted and eligible for scholarships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Stenehjem', written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Dr. Keith Stenehjem, VPAA
Mayville State University



January 31, 2020

Cory Steiner, Superintendent
Northern Cass Schools
1602118 St SE
Hunter ND, 58048-9730

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MSU understands that Northern Cass will still be able to provide a transcript and GPA for all applicants, and that the transcript will provide the information necessary to make an admission decision.

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MSU will continue to welcome Northern Cass graduates and pledge to work with you during this conversion process so the present and future graduates have opportunities to be admitted and eligible for scholarships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Stenejem', is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dr. Keith Stenejem, VPAA
Mayville State University



January 31, 2020

Dr. Cory J. Steiner,

I want to first thank you for coming to Valley City State University (VCSU) to share how Northern Cass High School is preparing its students to be choice ready for college, career or military. Transforming from the traditional system to a personalized, competency-based learning model is a great undertaking and one that we are happy to collaborate with and learn more about this innovative way of teaching students.

VCSU Enrollment Services Office works with high schools from across the United States and Canada who use a variety of grading systems to help determine if a student meets the guidelines set by the university for admittance. As Northern Cass High School transitions to a course proficiency scoring model and away from the traditional grading system, discussions will continue between the two schools to assure that all students who wish to attend the university are able to, by submitting the standards-based transcript.

Regarding how a student's scholarship opportunity would change with a course proficiency score is one that the Enrollment Services team does not feel would differ from all the other districts in which we receive applicants from. With the development of a grading comparison shared by Northern Cass High School, your students will be given the same chance at scholarships afforded by the university.

I wish you the best and very much look forward to working with Northern Cass on this innovative way of preparing learners for the future.

Sincerely,



Charlene Stenson
Director for Enrollment Services
Valley City State University
c.stenson@vcsu.edu
701/845-7105

January 7, 2020

Cory Steiner, Superintendent
Northern Cass Schools
16021 18 St SE
Hunter ND, 58048-9730

Dr. Steiner,

Thank you for making time to share an overview of North Cass School's personalized, competency-based learning model with NDSU. Our time together was informative and helped to fully understand the changes happening in the classroom and the ensuing changes to students' grades and transcripts.

As an outcome of our conversation we understand that when necessary Northern Cass will still be able to provide NDSU with a transcript and GPA for all applicants, and that the transcript will provide the information necessary for us to make an admission decision—courses, grades, credits. (NDSU's admission process allows students to self-report grades and test scores, eliminating a need for official transcripts and test scores at the point of admission. These documents are typically required after a student commits to NDSU.)

It is understood that the grading scale may deviate from the traditional model (4=A, 3=B) but it still follows a scale with a 4.0 being the highest GPA a student can earn. As with other schools that employ their own scale to assign grade bands, we will not convert the GPA for these students. We recognize that the grading system employed by Northern Cass reflects your standards, expectations and outcomes. We work with various schools that employ their own grading scales and respect that they may require stronger performance for outstanding grades. This is also the case with schools that weight classes for rigor and use weighted GPAs—NDSU uses unweighted GPAs.

Please recognize that students from Northern Cass who are proficient in classes will not be disadvantaged in our current scholarship process as we currently award scholarships to students who earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Based on your GPA conversions, students will meet our current GPA requirement for merit scholarships.

We would be happy to revisit this process as you continue implementing changes. Congratulations to you and your staff on this transformation!

Sincerely



Merideth Sherlin
Director of Admission

MOORHEAD  MINNESOTA
CONCORDIA
COLLEGE
Office of Admission

March 11, 2020

Dr. Cory J. Steiner
Superintendent of Schools
Northern Cass School District
16021 18th St. SE
Hunter, ND 58048-9730

Dear Dr. Steiner,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet you and Mr. Klapp to learn more about the innovating teaching and learning happening in the Northern Cass School District. I commend you, your faculty, and most importantly, the learners within the district for the creativity and courage it takes to make change in the academic and community setting.

After review of the materials presented and the conversation following, I can offer Concordia College's support for, and acceptance of the standards-based transcripts that would be submitted by a learner from Northern Cass in the admission process to Concordia College - Moorhead. Additionally, I can offer assurance that Concordia College will accept and use the standards-based transcript from Northern Cass to evaluate a learner for merit scholarships and other financial aid from the College. It is understood that a 3.0 grade for a Northern Cass learner is not equivalent to a 3.0 grade from a traditional grading system. Concordia College – Moorhead does reserve the right to contact either a principal, guidance/academic counselor, or teacher to assist the College in accurately assessing a standards-based transcript provided by a Northern Cass learner. That said, Concordia College will officially accept such a transcript for evaluation of both admission and merit scholarships.

I offer my congratulations for the positive changed you've realized in the District and Concordia's ongoing support in this effort. Concordia looks forward to enrolling highly-qualified graduates from Northern Cass in the coming years.

Most sincerely,



Dr. Karl A. Stumo
Vice President
Enrollment and Marketing
Concordia College – Moorhead, MN