

# Grading Policy Review 2011-2012

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average	B			
Attendance:	Present	48		
	Absent	0		
	Tardy	1		
A = Excellent • B = Good • C = Satisfactory • N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory • I = Insufficient / Incomplete				
Student: _____ Grade: _____ Year: _____				

# Grading System

The purpose of a grading system is to measure and communicate student progress.



Of the 152 school districts in Mississippi, only 20 utilize a grading system other than the 10 point or 10 point modified scale.

**We are one of those districts.**

- 26 high schools in Mississippi were named STAR schools last year.
- 23 of those high schools utilize a 10 point or 10 point modified grading scale. 13 (modified) 10 (straight)
- 20 of them are on a block schedule.
- All of these schools earned a QDI of 201 or higher during 2010~11.

**We earned a 188.**

# Benefits of a 10 point grading scale:

- Creates a “level playing field” as students compete for college admission and scholarships.
- Aligns with the grading scale used by most colleges.
- Possibly fewer students would fail, thus more would earn high school credit.
- Possibly more students would achieve Honor Roll status.

## Benefits (cont.)

- The drop-out rate may decrease.
- Student motivation to achieve to a higher level may increase as a result of success in the classroom.
- Student confidence and self-esteem may increase.
- Students may become more motivated to attempt AP, and dual enrollment courses.
- Student information transferred from one district to the next may be more easily evaluated.

# Issues to consider with a 10 point grading scale:

- Student motivation to achieve higher standards might diminish.
- Adjustments in the weight of assignments and assessments might result in the same grade distribution.
- The school may be viewed as lowering its standards however, when you compare the grading scale to rigor there is no correlation. The teacher determines the rigor of the course.

# Previous Common Grading Scale in Mississippi

A: 93~100

B: 85~92

C: 75~84

D: 70~74

F: 69 and below



# 10 Point Grading Systems

## Modified Scale

93~100	A+	4.0
90~92	A~	3.7
87~89	B+	3.3
83~86	B	3.0
80~82	B~	2.7
77~79	C+	2.3
73~76	C	2.0
70~72	C~	1.7
67~69	D+	1.3
64~66	D	1.0
Below 64	E	0.0

## Straight 10 Point

90~100	A	4.0
80~89	B	3.0
70~79	C	2.0
60~69	D	1.0
Below	F	0.0

# New Grading Scale Frequently Asked Questions

- How many districts use what type of ten point scale? Forty percent of Mississippi School Districts use a modified ten point scale.
- When would the new grading scale go into effect? If approved, it would go into effect for the 2012-2013 school year.
- Will all previous grades earned be converted to the new grading scale with the start of the 2012-2013 school year? No, all grades earned through May 2012 will remain the same.

# New Grading Scale Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

- Will the new scale have an impact on the graduation requirements, diplomas, or certificates? No. The new grading scale has no impact on graduation requirements.

# National Consideration

In 2007, the United States Department of Education released a study containing a report card for each of the high schools in the U.S. The report included a comparison of each of the major grading scales, and placed the 10-point system at number one. The report also revealed that the vast majority, around 70% of schools, operate on the 10-point grading scale, and that 33 of the top 45 schools in the nation used the 10-point system.

# MHSAA compared Mississippi to Florida



## Tupelo

A: 93~100

B: 85~92

C: 75~84

D: 70~74

F: 69 and below



## Florida Statewide

A: 90~100

B: 80~89

C: 70~79

D: 60~69

F: 59 and below



**In terms of student athletes, the number of scholarship opportunities and the amount of money awarded decrease for Tupelo students.**

# Example 1: Solid Academic Student

- Student averages a 92 in every class throughout high school and scores a 29 on the ACT.
- Tupelo GPA is 3.0; other Mississippi Student GPA is 4.0.
- Other Mississippi student is eligible for a \$34,000+ scholarship; Tupelo student eligible for up to \$12,000 at a Mississippi university.



## Example 2: Student-Athlete

- Student-athlete makes an 80 average in every class throughout high school.
- Tupelo GPA is 2.0; other Mississippi Student GPA is 3.0.
- **Tupelo student must have ACT sub score total of 86 (about 22 composite) while other Mississippi student must have sub score total of 52 (about 13)**

# LOUISIANA SITUATION

- East Baton Rouge School District did a study recently. If their district had been on the ten point scale, their students would have qualified for \$1.5 million more dollars in scholarships.
- The next board meeting they unanimously approved the ten point scale with no discussion.



## Effect on Florida

- Since moving to a 10~point grading scale, the state dropout rate has decreased 22 percent.
- This year's rate is at its lowest ~ 2.6 percent.
- The graduation rate in Florida has also increased 15.2 percent.
- African~American and Hispanic students showed some of the highest increases, 3.8 percent and 3.1 percent respectively.

# Questions

