

Grading and GPA Calculations

WEIGHTED COURSES

(From page 14-16 of the Student/Parent Handbook)

“Weighted course” means a course in which credit is increased because of quality of work expected.

The Dickenson County School Board designates Advanced Placement courses, courses taken through the A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School, Early College Academy courses and all other dual-credit courses as weighted credit courses.

A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School

The Governor’s School offers courses to identified gifted education students in our secondary schools through the Learn-Link Network. Eligible students must make application to and be selected as a participant before being enrolled in Governor’s School.

Governor’s School students must also meet the community college placement requirements for dual enrollment (college credit) courses.

INSTRUCTION-GRADING SYSTEM

1. The formal grading system for Dickenson County is as follows:

90—100=A
80—89=B
70—79=C
60—69=D
59 or below=F

2. To use an unweighted GPAs calculation with quality points:

A=4
B=3
C=2
D=1
F=0.

3. Weighted GPAs for AP/Dual Enrollment classes would be calculated with quality points:

A=5
B=4
C=3
D=2
F=0

4. Honors classes would be calculated with quality points:

A=4.5
B=3.5
C=2.5
D=1.5
F=0.

5. The new GPA calculation will be implemented with the beginning of the 22-23 SY school year.

6. To help our students' transition to a new grade level, the lowest grade on the report card for the 1st Nine Weeks will be a 50. After the 1st Nine Weeks, students will receive the actual grade earned in academic subjects.

Permanent Records and Report Cards

Grades will be recorded in numerals and letter grades in report cards, Nine Weeks grades, Semester Grades, transcripts, and permanent records.

Students who are making a below a 70 (or D or an F) will receive a Mid-Nine Weeks reports. To help our students' transition to a new grade level, the lowest grade on the report card for the 1st Nine Weeks will be a 50. After the 1st Nine Weeks, students will receive the actual grade earned in academic subjects.

Grading / evaluating of a student is used to indicate achievement and shall not be used as a disciplinary measure. Unless an error has been made in arriving at a grade, no points may be subtracted from or added to a student's recorded grade.

A grade, once recorded on permanent records, cannot be changed except in case of an error; then the change must be approved by the teacher or principal.

Definitions of Appropriate Educational Terms

“Advanced course” means a course that presents material and concepts beyond the introductory or the elementary; a course that carries on from an introductory or elementary course given in the same school.

“Advanced Placement (AP) course” means a course with a syllabus equivalent to the relevant Advance Placement syllabus disseminated by the Educational Testing Services.

“Assessment component” means any of the means by which one obtains information on the progress of the learner and the effectiveness of instruction; quantitative data, objective measures, subjective impressions, tests, and observations may all serve as instruments for deciding whether instructional objectives have been attained.

“Credit” means official certification of the completion of a course of study; a unit of expressing quantitatively the amount of content of a course of instruction, especially with reference to the value of the course in relation to the total requirements for a diploma or certificate.

“Curriculum” means an official guide prepared for use by administrators, supervisors, and teachers of a particular school or school system as an aid to teaching in a given subject or area of study for a given grade. Such a guide includes the goals and objectives of the course, the expected outcomes, assessment component, and the scope and nature of the materials to be studied.

“Grade point average” means a measure of average scholastic success in all school subjects taken by a student during a certain term or semester, or accumulated for several terms or semesters; obtained by dividing grade points by number of courses taken.

“Secondary course” means a course of study planned especially for people of ages approximately 12 to 17, in which the emphasis tends to shift from mastery of basic tools of learning, expression, and understanding to the use and extension of the tools in exploring areas of thought and living, and in exploring and acquiring information, concepts, intellectual skills, attitudes, social, physical, and intellectual ideas, and habits, understanding, and appreciation.

“Secondary school transcript” means an official list of all secondary courses taken by a student, showing the final grade received for each course

EVALUATION AND PROMOTION

Kindergarten: Students will be promoted to Grade 1 based on levels of achievement and progress which are necessary for success in first grade. Students will earn S (Satisfactory) or U (Unsatisfactory) for all standards evaluated and for each activity class (Art, Music, PE, and computer lab). Honor Roll will not be calculated for Kindergarten.

First Grade: For a student to be promoted to the next higher grade level student should demonstrate proficiency in English, mathematics, social science, and science. Students may earn O (Outstanding 90-100), S (Satisfactory 70 - 89), N (Needs Improving 60 – 69), or U (Unsatisfactory 0-59) in all subjects. Student will receive O, S, N, or U for their engagement in activity classes (Art, Music, PE, and Computer lab). Honor Roll will not be calculated for First grade.

Elementary: (Grades 2 -5): In Grades 2-5, any student may be retained if he/she fails two or more core academic subjects (English/language arts, math, science, and social science). Students could receive A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (0-59) in all subjects based on their academic performance. Students will receive letter grades in their Encore classes (Art, Music, PE, and Computer lab) such as A, B, C, D, and F. but these classes will not be included in Honor Roll calculations. Honor Roll will not be calculated for Grade 2. Students in grades 3-5 honor roll will be calculated using core academic subjects only (English/language arts, math, science, and social science). Students having below a 50 average are strongly recommended to attend summer school or after-school remediation.

Middle School Grades: (Grades 6 – 8): To be considered for promotion from 6th Grade through 8th Grade, a student should pass at least three of the (4) core academic subjects. Students will receive letter grades and number grades in Encore Classes such as Physical Education, Music, Keyboarding, and Band but these classes will not be included in Honor Roll calculations. Students having below a 50 average are strongly recommended to attend summer school or after-school remediation. Students who pass an SOL test but fail the respective course with a 50 average or higher shall receive an adjusted grade as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	-	<u>Adjusted Grade</u>
F	-	D

Secondary (9th – 12th Grades): Students must have a minimum of six (6) credits toward graduation to be promoted to Grade 10. Students must have a minimum of twelve (12) credits toward graduation to be promoted to Grade 11. Students must have a minimum of eighteen (18) credits toward graduation to be promoted to Grade 12. Students having below a 50 average are strongly recommended to attend summer school or after-school remediation.

Students who pass a SOL test but fails the respective course with a 50 average or higher shall receive an adjusted grade as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	-	<u>Adjusted Grade</u>
F	-	D

- To graduate from high school with a standard diploma, a student must have earned at least 24 credits. In addition to credits in the four (4) core academic areas, students must also earn credits in courses as prescribed by VDOE, including credits in fine arts or career technical education, economics/personal finance, and health/ physical education
- To graduate from high school with an advanced studies diploma, a student must have earned at least 26 credits. The advanced studies diploma requires students to earn additional credits in math, science, history and world languages.
- For advanced studies and standard diplomas, student require students to complete Economics & Personal Finance. All DCPS students are also encouraged to complete at least one (1) math credit each year, with Economics & Personal Finance satisfying this requirement in Grade 11 or Grade 12. Statement needs revision

- **AP, Honors, IB, Dual Enrollment, Work-Based Learning, or CTE Credential** - Students shall (i) complete an Advanced Placement, honors, International Baccalaureate, or dual enrollment course; or (ii) complete a high-quality work-based learning experience, as established by Board guidance on work-based learning; or (iii) earn a career and technical education credential approved by the board, except when a career and technical education credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based instruction in the subject area to satisfy the advanced studies diploma requirements. The career and technical education credential, when required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness assessment

CLASS RANK

Class rank will be established within the final (9) nine weeks of the last reporting period in which a student is scheduled to graduate. This will be done by averaging all courses taken by the student during his or her 9th-12th grade years (and those required for graduation but taken during the 8th grade year).

Those students ranking one and two within the final 9 weeks of the last reporting period of their graduating year will be designated as valedictorian and salutatorian respectively.

The following guidelines are approved procedures recognized by Dickenson County Public Schools for assessing grade point average (GPA) and for obtaining rank of graduating seniors.

I. To be eligible for ranking, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Be in a twelfth-grade homeroom and graduate during the regular school term.
2. Be eligible for a standard or advanced studies diploma.

II. Generally

1. If a student repeats a class, an average of the two grades earned will be used in GPA computation. This final average will count as one Carnegie unit of credit towards graduation.
2. If a course that is normally offered at the ninth grade or above is taken in the eighth grade then credit will be given.
3. If a student earns a credit(s) in a course(s) in the eighth grade, the parents/guardians of the student must declare in writing if the grade(s) for each course shall NOT be used in determining the student's GPA. This declaration in writing must be received by the end of the first semester of the student's senior year.
4. If a student receives a passing average for a course, but does not receive credit for that course, the course will not be considered for GPA purposes.
5. GPA will be calculated to the second place value without rounding.

III. GPA Procedures to be used in Dickenson County Public Schools beginning with students entering the ninth grade during the 2022 - 2023 academic year and subsequent years.

- To use an unweighted GPAs calculation with quality points:

A=4
B=3
C=2
D=1
F=0.

- Weighted GPAs for AP/Dual Enrollment classes would be calculated with quality points:

A=5
B=4

C=3
D=2
F=0

- Honors classes would be calculated with quality points:

A=4.5
B=3.5
C=2.5
D=1.5
F=0

7. The new GPA calculation will be implemented with the beginning of the 22-23 SY school year.

1. Advanced Placement courses, courses taken through the Linwood Holton Governor's School (HGS), Early College Academy courses, and other dual-credit courses will be weighted with GPAs for AP/Dual Enrollment calculated.
2. Weighted credit will also be added for approved Honors courses with weighted Honors GPAs.
3. Dickenson County Public Schools will recognize honors graduates by conferring the following designations at graduation.
 - a. Students with a GPA of 3.4 or higher will be recognized as *cum laude* graduates;
 - b. Students with a GPA of 3.7 or higher will be recognized as *magna cum laude* graduates;
and
 - c. Students with a GPA of 4.0 or higher will be recognized as *summa cum laude* graduates.
4. To be eligible for recognition as valedictorian or salutatorian in Dickenson County Public Schools, students must have been enrolled in high school in Dickenson County Public Schools for a minimum of 3 semesters prior to the final semester.

Adopted: June 22, 2022