

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE**

BETTY IRELAND

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5

Do Not Mark In This Box

2008 APR 11 PM 4:18

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Education TITLE NUMBER: 126

CITE AUTHORITY: W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2 and W.Va. Code §18-2-5

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL _____ INTERPRETIVE _____

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE X

CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

W.Va. Code §§ 29A-3B-1, et seq.; W.Va. Board of Education
v. Hechler, 180 W.Va. 451; 376 S.E.2d 839 (1988).

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES X NO _____

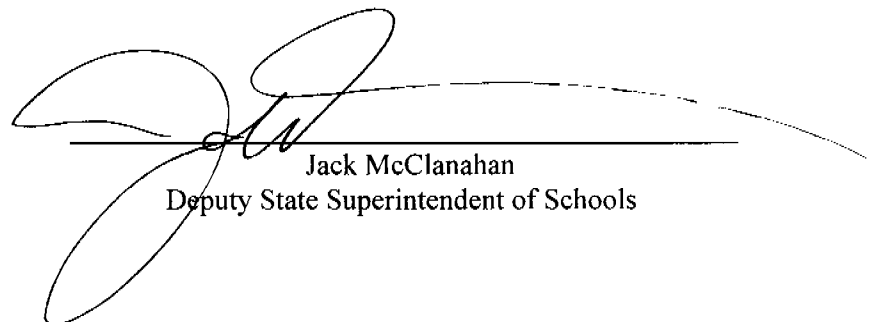
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 37

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Uniform Grading (2515)

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS July 1, 2008.



Jack McClanahan
Deputy State Superintendent of Schools

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Policy Number and Title: Policy 2515: Uniform Grading

Background: The amendment of Policy 2515 at section 4. Weighted Grades is proposed to provide weighted grades for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.

Proposals: Policy 2515 is being amended to incorporate weighted grades (and an associated grading scale) for AP and IB courses.

Impact: The proposed amendment of Policy 2515 will provide an incentive for students to take AP and IB courses.

Response to Comments: During the comment period 47 comments were received. Due to confusion relevant to the authority of the county boards of education to weight grades of other advanced high school courses, the following sentence was added to 4.1: County boards of education continue to have discretionary authority to issue weighted grades for other advanced high school courses

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 9:08 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-25 09:07:46)

Please save this email in a "Comments Received Online" folder.
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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Tom Williams
Organization: St. Albans High School
Email: tewillia@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Principal
Address1: 2100 Kanawha Terrace
Address2:
City/State/Zip: St. Albans, WV 25177
Role: Principal
Posted: 2008-01-25 09:07:46
Posted from IP: 168.216.124.200

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Carla: I feel this policy will prevent students from taking upper level courses. Those students who may be honors level but not AP level will be discouraged from taking the honors level courses because their grades will not be weighted. Students, and parents, will be concerned about maintaining grades for the PROMISE...."Don't take the AP Class it will hurt your chances of maintaining a 3.0 and qualifying for the PROMISE".

IB is an expensive program and I would venture to say most counties cannot afford to provide this program for their students....so for 99% of the students in WV the only way they can obtain a weighted grade is to take an AP course. I feel this is unfair to the middle group who would push themselves to take weighted courses but are not capable of AP.

As a parent I feel students should be rewarded for taking the upper level classes. My son is taking 2 College Math Classes, Physics, Chem 2, Bio 2, and Honors History/English...does he not deserve weighted credit over the senior who glides through his senior year? Of course he does....as an educator I know the value of students taking challenging courses but what about the thousands of parents who don't realize they should push their children-they will see little value because there is no "reward".

I understand the concept behind this policy change...push more kids into AP and thus better prepare them for success in college....I am afraid the reality will be pushing kids away from AP and the Honors/Weighted courses-and thus having more kids in remedial courses in college....I am not willing to take that chance with the future of children....I believe with increased rigor/relevance and 21st Century Skills for the honors programs students will gain the confidence they need to move on to AP classes...I would be happy to further discuss this and can be reached at school...722-0212. Tom

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 10:20 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-25 10:20:11)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name:
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role:
Posted: 2008-01-25 10:20:11
Posted from IP: 127.0.0.1

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

test

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 1:05 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-25 13:05:25)

Categories: Red Category

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Demaina Sue Beller
Organization: Education
Email: dsbranha@k12.wv.us
Title: Classroom teacher
Address1: 11971 Coal River Road
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Whitesville, WV 25209
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-25 13:05:25
Posted from IP: 168.216.16.50

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

I believe the entire state should have the same grading scale.
It is not fair to the students that have a high scale and other
students have a lower standard. If the state wants every body on the
same level then grades must be the same.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Students that take the higher classes should be given credit . Students
making choices to broaden their knowledge deserve to know their hard
work was worth something in school. LIFE

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 8:43 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-27 20:42:31)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Kathleen Daugherty
Organization: Buckhannon Upshur H.S.
Email: kd843202@ohiou.edu
Title: Social Studies Teacher
Address1: 58 Smithfield St.
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-27 20:42:31
Posted from IP: 74.197.148.144

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Although, there is no suggested change for the overall grading school, one should be considered. The grading scale needs to be changed to be comparable with other states, which will allow our students to compete with other students country wide when applying to colleges and universities, as well as scholarships. In 1999, Ohio changed their grading scales to 100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C, ect. I know other states have switched to that grading scale as well. We are trying to give our students the best opportunities as possible and to do so, we must give our students this advantage to be competitive with others from around the country.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Weighted grades need to be allowed for AP classes. Students are opting to take easier courses, rather than challenging themselves, so that they are able to secure a better grade so that they can get into their college/university of their choice and be more competitive when applying for scholarships. As educators, we want our students to strive to better themselves in everyway possible. Unless we decide to weight grades for AP classes, students will continue to opt out and take easier classes, so that they can ensure that they will stay competitive with other students.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2008 9:00 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-03 20:59:47)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Stella R. Harvey
Organization:
Email: stellah@cebridge.net
Title:
Address1: Rt.1 Box 306
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2008-02-03 20:59:47
Posted from IP: 24.206.204.154

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

The dual credit classes (college credit and credit in high school) should also be weghted. This would encourage students take the difficult claases and encourage them to attend WV colleges and universities.
A uniform grading scale with A=90-100,B=89-80,C=79-70,D=69-60.
This would even the playing field throughout the schools from kindergarden through college.
Thanks Stella

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 12:54 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-30 00:53:59)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Robert Lyons
Organization: Westside High School
Email: rlyons@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Teacher
Address1: HC 65 Box 275
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Clear Fork, WV 24822
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-30 00:53:59
Posted from IP: 64.127.59.29

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

A uniform state grading scale will allow colleges to compare students from different counties in a more appropriate manner. The only thing on a transcript is the final letter grade and colleges do not see the actual average for a regular class. So a 92% in one county is an "A" where it would be a "B" in an adjoining county. Even though the grade averages are the same, one student now has an advantage over another. All teachers in each subject and grade level are held to the same content standards across the state. It is only fitting the same material being taught should be held to the same grading standards as well.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I fully agree that students in AP or IB courses should be rewarded for taking the more challenging courses. Each school has courses that students deem as an "easy A." In Wyoming County, we had a situation in 1991 where an SE student graduated seventh in a class of 150 students one year over students that had taken AP courses. Our county began looking into weighting some courses and adopted a policy very shortly afterwards.

One matter to watch for is the courses on the weighted list. Will only AP and IB courses be weighted statewide? Will counties have the flexibility to add other courses? Will the state require students to take the exams for each course to receive the weighted grade (our county and others currently do).

Another matter that comes to mind is the point distribution. We tell parents that an "A" is 5 points on a weighted scale and semester averages are actually calculated like this. Final graduation rank, however, is a little more complicated and I cannot explain it without writing a short version of "War and Peace" without giving it

justice. I will say that we calculate it different for final GPA rank because we do not want a student to have an ungraded class period such as an office assistant and receive a higher GPA than a student with a full class load that happened to be in an unweighted class during a period the office worker would be ungraded. The math would actually penalize the student for taking an unweighted course in that instance even if both students have the same course load and the same grades throughout the rest of the day.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2008 8:33 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-03 20:33:19)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Doug Frashure
Organization: Buckhannon-Upshur High School
Email: dfrashur@k12.wv.us
Title: Assistant Principal
Address1: 50 B-U Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201
Role: Principal
Posted: 2008-02-03 20:33:19
Posted from IP: 74.197.144.93

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

I am not sure that making the grade scale higher will cause students be more rigerous. Most colleges use a 10 point scale, as do other schools. I would rather see an larger piont scale that used '+' and '-' rather than just the proposed scale. My high school uses the proposed scale and I would like to see it return to a 10 point scale.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I beleive that honor courses, dual credit, AP and IB courses need to be weighted. In our high school students will not take an honor's class because it is harder and can hurt their grade. Another problem is that the Promise Scholarship requires a 3.0 GPA. Students can be hurt by taking an honors class and getting a lower grade. This is working against encouraging students to take more rigorous classes. I understand that honors courses and AP or IB courses are not the same but the hours could be weighted .5 greater. I deal with parents every year as we schedule classes who want their son or daughter to have the correct teacher and class so their child can receive a high grade to keep the Promose Scholarship. One of my teacher's daughter has taken honor classes over the course of her four years in high school and has received C's which hurt her GPA for the Promise Scholarship. She called the state department to ask about honors course weighting and was told to have her !
daughter take easier classes. By weighting more difficult courses students will be encourage and rewarded for taking these classes.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2008 8:33 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-03 20:33:19)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Doug Frashure
Organization: Buckhannon-Upshur High School
Email: dfrashur@k12.wv.us
Title: Assistant Principal
Address1: 50 B-U Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201
Role: Principal
Posted: 2008-02-03 20:33:19
Posted from IP: 74.197.144.93

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

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daughter take easier classes. By weighting more difficult courses students will be encourage and rewarded for taking these classes.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2008 8:02 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-17 08:02:03)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Paula Staley
Organization: WVDE - OTSPI
Email: pstaley@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Assistant Director
Address1: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Charleston, WV 25305
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2008-01-17 08:02:03
Posted from IP: 129.71.215.161

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I question this move unless there are stipulations attached for both the student and/or the teacher. I have visited classes where the AP class has less rigor than a good regular level course. Many of our systems are including AP in the schedule to meet the letter of the policy. I visited one school where students from two different courses were taught in the same room, same period, by the same teacher, no difference in content, with ZERO passage rate of those tested the past two years. Teachers are not required to take the certifying course(through CPD), students are not scheduled into the classes with the expectation of testing, and parents will be given an open door to only wanting the label of AP on the transcript with the extra weight and not the obligation on the student's part to put forth greater effort and work harder. This weighting system opens the door to students completing the bare minimum(65%) and receiving the equivalent of a C on the transcript. I would like to see us wait on this until after we can compile data relative to enrollment, teacher training (CPD), testing registration, and finally testing pass rate.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2008 10:47 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-18 10:47:24)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Matthew S. Postlethwait
Organization: Randolph County Schools
Email: mpostlethwait@fairmontstate.edu
Title: Classroom teacher
Address1: 116 Buffalo Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Elkins, WV 26241
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-18 10:47:24
Posted from IP: 168.216.136.120

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

If I read this correctly, and I believe that I do, it is being proposed that only AP and IB courses be accepted for weighted grades. This is a rather shortsighted proposal. To begin, Advanced Placement (AP) is a product that does not guarantee any college credit to the student. After completing the course, the students are required to pay for and take the test. This merely benefits a corporate entity as the expense of school budgets and parent and student incomes. Dual-credit courses offer a more challenging and a more valuable experience for the student, and they serve as a good recruiting tool for the college offering the dual-credit. These students receive up to six college credit hours to transfer to an in-state school. These classes not only make the high school experience more valuable for the student, but they help the state's higher education institutions by allowing them to increase their student enrollment. This helps to keep students in state while attendi!

ng post-secondary educational facilities. Students earn these credits while still in high school and generally from qualified faculty who know them and can better serve them. This allows for a more meaning and successful introduction to the college setting and is more likely to allow the student to integrate more successfully, and subsequently be more likely to graduate with a post-secondary degree. By continuing to pursue the policy as written, you will be forcing students into less valuable and meaningful AP classes and stripping away an opportunity to take classes that will allow students to graduate with a jump start on their education, thus making it more likely for them to continue with their schooling. Continue to count dual-credit

classes as weighted classes so that students will not be forced to choose between taking classes to achieve class rank and classes that truly benefit them by allowing them to begin their college careers.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 4:32 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-24 16:32:10)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Patrick Leggett
Organization: Point Pleasant High School
Email: pleggett@access.k12.wv.us
Title: School Counselor
Address1: Rt 1 Box 4
Address2: Ohio River Road
City/State/Zip: Point Pleasant, WV 25550
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2008-01-24 16:32:10
Posted from IP: 168.216.126.169

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Weighted grades are a mockery of the touted rigorous curriculum in too many counties. This sets a standard of rigor that is recognized and accepted across the nation's higher education institutions as just that.

Thank you.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 7:38 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-24 19:38:27)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Bonnie White
Organization:
Email: bwgearup@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1: 265 Windham Place
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Masontown, WV 26542
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2008-01-24 19:38:27
Posted from IP: 70.101.134.39

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I agree with the adoption of all schools using the weighted grade system. These courses are advanced and/or college credit classes and require much more work, therefore deserving of more credit.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 12:04 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-25 12:03:47)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Tom Chaffins
Organization: Mercer Co Schools
Email: tchaffin@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Secondary supervisor
Address1: 1403 honaker Ave
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Princeton, WV 24740
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2008-01-25 12:03:47
Posted from IP: 168.216.82.83

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

If we are encouraging our students to take more rigorous courses there should be an avenue to reward these students. That reward is weighting which is sort of a carrot to encourage those who are very concerned about their GPA. I am sure that HSs throughout the state could site examples of a student not wanting to take a more difficult class because of their GPA or an example of a student who did take a more difficult class, only to have a lower class rank because someone else chose the less difficult classes and got a higher grade. If you are going to make it mandatory for all counties, then I would propose to include most ,if not all, of the areas already weighted such as Honors, etc.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2008 3:03 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-25 15:03:20)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Bonnie Ritz
Organization: Marshall County Schools
Email: britz@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Address1: 2700 Fourth Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Moundsville, WV 26041
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2008-01-25 15:03:20
Posted from IP: 168.216.171.86

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Without addressing the issue of weighted honors grades it is difficult to consider this a uniform grading policy.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2008 9:47 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-26 09:47:00)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Elizabeth Thompson
Organization: Logan High School
Email: ethompso@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Math Teacher
Address1: c/o Logan High School
Address2: One Wildcat Way
City/State/Zip: Logan, WV 25601
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-26 09:47:00
Posted from IP: 74.196.80.217

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Please give serious pause before deciding not to include "Honors" classes for weighted grades. Not all curricula fall under AP classification; by providing more rigorous and thought provoking courses under the "honors" classification, we are able to challenge and improve the quality of education being provided to students who truly want a good education. These students should not be punished for taking harder courses by allowing those who don't take such courses equal grading standards. I teach two honors math classes; I can assure you that my programs will be lost if my students are not provided with an incentive of "fairness" in the grading of these courses. We desperately need the quality students who take "honors" courses in this country; please don't let our public school system let them down, yet again!
Elizabeth Thompson

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2008 8:08 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-26 20:08:03)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Suzette Cook
Organization:
Email: scook@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Superintendent
Address1: McDowell County Schools
Address2: 30 Central Avenue
City/State/Zip: Welch, WV 24801
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2008-01-26 20:08:03
Posted from IP: 64.127.57.43

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Great Idea!! I think this will help to encourage students to take AP Classes.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 8:43 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-27 20:42:31)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Kathleen Daugherty
Organization: Buckhannon Upshur H.S.
Email: kd843202@ohiou.edu
Title: Social Studies Teacher
Address1: 58 Smithfield St.
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-27 20:42:31
Posted from IP: 74.197.148.144

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Although, there is no suggested change for the overall grading school, one should be considered. The grading scale needs to be changed to be comparable with other states, which will allow our students to compete with other students country wide when applying to colleges and universities, as well as scholarships. In 1999, Ohio changed their grading scales to 100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C, ect. I know other states have switched to that grading scale as well. We are trying to give our students the best opportunities as possible and to do so, we must give our students this advantage to be competitive with others from around the country.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Weighted grades need to be allowed for AP classes. Students are opting to take easier courses, rather than challenging themselves, so that they are able to secure a better grade so that they can get into their college/university of their choice and be more competitive when applying for scholarships. As educators, we want our students to strive to better themselves in everyway possible. Unless we decide to weight grades for AP classes, students will continue to opt out and take easier classes, so that they can ensure that they will stay competitive with other students.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 9:28 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-28 09:28:08)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Marian Covey
Organization: WVDE
Email: mecovey@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Coordinator
Address1: 106 Garfield Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Beckley, WV 25801
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2008-01-28 09:28:08
Posted from IP: 129.71.215.161

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

We work with high schools across the state, specifically observing instructional practices in the classroom. We look for a classroom that is student-centered and operating at a high level of thinking. That is what is expected in a "regular" level of class if we hope to prepare our students for the workforce of the 21st century. Even in classes "labeled" AP, the rigor is often substandard. Since teachers are not required to be AP certified to teach AP, the enticement of weighted grades may only serve to further "devalue" the course. Students would be able to work at the lowest level and receive the equivalent of a "C" on the transcript. It would seem this is taking a step backward in what we are trying to do.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 9:29 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-28 09:29:00)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Don White
Organization: Mercer County Schools
Email: djwhite@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Asst. Supt./Title I Director
Address1: 1403 Honaker Avenue
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Princeton, WV 24740
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2008-01-28 09:29:00
Posted from IP: 168.216.25.127

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

We currently weight Pre-AP Language Arts classes. This prep class is vital to the matriculation of students to the AP level. The weighted grade helps recruit students for AP classes. I would hope this is considered in the final version of the policy.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2008 8:37 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-27 20:37:26)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name:
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-27 20:37:26
Posted from IP: 141.153.72.82

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Honors & AP classes should be worth 1.0 more than the general classes on a 4.0 scale.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 1:10 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-28 13:10:20)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: David Dilly
Organization:
Email: ddilly@access.k12.wv.us
Title:
Address1: RT 1 box 153
Address2:
City/State/Zip: 26269, WV 26269
Role: Principal
Posted: 2008-01-28 13:10:20
Posted from IP: 168.216.132.27

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Weighted grades are not a beneficial to students. By simply stating that these classes are harder than other classes or should be worth more due to their status may or may not be true. Policy should not be written to place an added value to a classes, I think that it should be left up to local boards of education where classes can be evaluated and judged on their individual merit.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 1:40 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-28 13:40:05)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Janet Kalbaugh
Organization: Mineral Co Schools
Email: gkalbaugh@comcast.net
Title: counselor
Address1: HC 72 Box 252
Address2:
City/State/Zip: keyser, WV 26726
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2008-01-28 13:40:05
Posted from IP: 71.61.140.153

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Does the policy imply that only AP and IB would be weighted? Our system weights dual credit college classes through Potomac State of WVU. Approximately 1/4 of the senior class will have at least 12 hours of college credit at graduation. Havlng already started the scheduling process for 08-09, students who enrolled for more challenging courses will choose to take an easier selection when they learn that after July 1 college and honors classes will no longer be weighted.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 7:17 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-28 19:16:43)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Richard Hicks
Organization: Tucker County Board of Education
Email: rhicks@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Superintendent
Address1: 501 Chestnut Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Parsons, WV 26287
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2008-01-28 19:16:43
Posted from IP: 70.101.130.39

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I am philosophically opposed to weighted grades. The State of West Virginia has become involved in the process of "Assessment For Learning". The whole concept of this approach is to utilize assessments to reflect content mastery. By placing artificial weights on grades for the purpose of "providing an incentive" negates the use of assessments as measures and once again puts them into the realm of using grades for GPA recognition and competition.

The incentive for taking AP and similar courses is to pass the AP exams and secure college credits.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 7:29 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-28 19:28:41)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Elaine Matheny
Organization:
Email: ecmatheny@yahoo.com
Title:
Address1: 3010 Kathnor lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Point Pleasant, WV 25550
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-28 19:28:41
Posted from IP: 72.64.21.188

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

As I understand weighted grades, the colleges do not use the 5 point system to calculate high school seniors GPA even if the county does use weighted grades. Our county has used them for honors classes as well as AP and IB. Does this rule stop the use of the 5 pt scale for honors classes? Perhaps the colleges do use the 5 point scale for AP, but I know that students have been disappointed when their college entrance GPA is not as high as they thought it was. I think that our state should adopt a grading policy for high school that is in agreement with the colleges in state and out of state so that there is no further confusion in this regard.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, January 28, 2008 8:09 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-28 20:08:56)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Christy Holcomb
Organization:
Email: chip1969@skywayusa.net
Title:
Address1: Rt. 6 Box 285A
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Fairmont, WV 26554
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2008-01-28 20:08:56
Posted from IP: 216.226.241.42

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

In changing this policy I would like it to be considered to make this a statewide change in the grading system every county and every school follow the exact same grading scale. It just so happens that I myself am having an issue with the weighted grading system. I think that the policy should be concise as not to leave any room for interpretation. For instance it needs to list what subjects count and which do not such as does gym class get the same weight as English? Also, this should be for grades k-12 not just high school. Rules are very unclear as to what grading scale grades k-8 are using. Could the policy not be updated to include each grade level and at each grade level what subjects are included in the grading scale for instance
Grade 1 math grade A = 5 pts B=4
Grade 1 Art Graqde A=2pts
Personally, I feel in general that all required subject should be equal from grade k-12, I do not think there should be any weiging allowed at all however, if their is my suggestions are above.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2008 8:34 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-29 08:34:27)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Judy Grace
Organization: TCHS
Email: jgrace@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Teacher
Address1: 1993 Silver Knight Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Sistersville, WV 25179
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-29 08:34:27
Posted from IP: 168.216.140.62

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I am a AP Calculus teacher at Tyler Consolidated. I feel that AP courses need to allow for the weighted grading ie 90-100 is an A, 80-90 is a B etc. (note that I am not overinflating their GPA) because the course work involved is much more strenuous than a high school course. After all the students can earn college credit should they score 3 or better on their AP test in May. The work load is much greater than a high school course. These students are stiving to increase their academics before attending college making them better prepared. They should be awarded for their efforts not penalized. I am confident that without the weighted grading system at our school we would have fewer students attempting the more rigorous AP classes.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 12:54 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-30 00:53:59)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Robert Lyons
Organization: Westside High School
Email: rlyons@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Teacher
Address1: HC 65 Box 275
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Clear Fork, WV 24822
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-30 00:53:59
Posted from IP: 64.127.59.29

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

A uniform state grading scale will allow colleges to compare students from different counties in a more appropriate manner. The only thing on a transcript is the final letter grade and colleges do not see the actual average for a regular class. So a 92% in one county is an "A" where it would be a "B" in an adjoining county. Even though the grade averages are the same, one student now has an advantage over another. All teachers in each subject and grade level are held to the same content standards across the state. It is only fitting the same material being taught should be held to the same grading standards as well.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I fully agree that students in AP or IB courses should be rewarded for taking the more challenging courses. Each school has courses that students deem as an "easy A." In Wyoming County, we had a situation in 1991 where an SE student graduated seventh in a class of 150 students one year over students that had taken AP courses. Our county began looking into weighting some courses and adopted a policy very shortly afterwards.

One matter to watch for is the courses on the weighted list. Will only AP and IB courses be weighted statewide? Will counties have the flexibility to add other courses? Will the state require students to take the exams for each course to receive the weighted grade (our county and others currently do).

Another matter that comes to mind is the point distribution. We tell parents that an "A" is 5 points on a weighted scale and semester averages are actually calculated like this. Final graduation rank, however, is a little more complicated and I cannot explain it without writing a short version of "War and Peace" without giving it

justice. I will say that we calculate it different for final GPA rank because we do not want a student to have an ungraded class period such as an office assistant and receive a higher GPA than a student with a full class load that happened to be in an unweighted class during a period the office worker would be ungraded. The math would actually penalize the student for taking an unweighted course in that instance even if both students have the same course load and the same grades throughout the rest of the day.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 8:48 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-30 08:47:35)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Betty Jo Jordan
Organization: WVDE
Email: bjjordan@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Executive Director
Address1: 1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Address2: Building 6 Room 221
City/State/Zip: Charleston, WV 25305
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2008-01-30 08:47:35
Posted from IP: 129.71.215.161

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

4.1 - It is important for students to complete rigorous courses but many students simply enroll in AP courses to receive the weighted grade and inflate the GPA and do not seriously apply themselves to the rigor of the course. (Of course many would say some students in regular courses exhibit the same lack of initiative). I think we should also establish the expectation for taking the AP exam and base the weighted grade on completing the AP course and taking the exam. There is body of research supporting that taking the course and preparing for the rigors of the exam are beneficial to students' achievement and success in postsecondary education. I would not base the weighted grade on the AP course exam score - since exam scores are usually not received until after the end of the school year.

I also believe weighted grades should be given to college courses students take for dual credit.

4.2 course grading scale - I believe giving weight to any grade below a C does not communicate high expectations for student performance and would support weighting only for grades of A-B.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 8:05 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-01-31 08:05:03)

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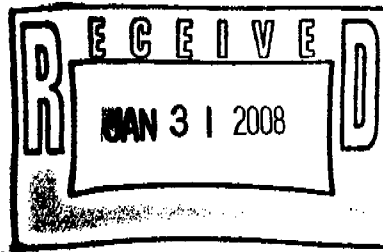
#####

Name: Mike Sharpolisky
Organization: B-UHS
Email: zskiwalker@cebridge.net
Title: English Dept. Chair
Address1: 50 B-U Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-01-31 08:05:03
Posted from IP: 168.216.160.30

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Most would agree that it's difficult to be against uniform grades. With high stakes in education because of the Promise scholarship, this need for uniformity is paramount. However, once the line is breached, how far should we venture? Dual credit classes, for instance, should at least be considered for weighting. After all, they are college classes earning college credit. Thanks.



POLICY 2515: Uniform Grading

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: February 11, 2008

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading at section 1. General and section 4. Weighted Grades. Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name : Rhoda Fitzsimmons Organization: Paden City High

Title: Math Teacher

Street Address:

City: Paden City State: WV Zip: 26159

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

- Checkboxes for School System Superintendent, Principal, Professional Support Staff, School System Staff, Teacher (checked), Service Personnel, Parent/Family, Business/Industry, Community Member.

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
§126-37-1. General.
§126-37-4. Weighted Grades. Since Colleges prefer a 4.0 scale, why don't we weight by the following?
90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
0-59 F
Thanks
Rhoda Fitzsimmons
P.S. For Counties using % instead of letter grades for reporting, perhaps we could use the attached

scale - or some similar scale to adjust percents to fit the scale listed above. Please direct all comments to: Carla Williamson

| GRADE | WEIGHTED GRADE |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 100----- | 100 |
| 99----- | 99 |
| 98----- | 98 |
| 97----- | 97 |
| 96----- | 96 |
| 95----- | 96 |
| 94----- | 95 |
| 93----- | 94 |
| 92----- | 93 |
| 91----- | 93 |
| 90----- | 93 |
| 89----- | 92 |
| 88----- | 91 |
| 87----- | 90 |
| 86----- | 89 |
| 85----- | 88 |
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| 83----- | 86 |
| 82----- | 85 |
| 81----- | 85 |
| 80----- | 85 |
| 79----- | 84 |
| 78----- | 83 |
| 77----- | 82 |
| 76----- | 81 |
| 75----- | 80 |
| 74----- | 79 |
| 73----- | 78 |

| GRADE | WEIGHTED GRADE |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| 72----- | 77 |
| 71----- | 76 |
| 70----- | 75 |
| 69----- | 74 |
| 68----- | 73 |
| 67----- | 72 |
| 66----- | 71 |
| 65----- | 70 |
| 64----- | 69 |
| 63----- | 68 |
| 62----- | 67 |
| 61----- | 66 |
| 60----- | 65 |

(No grade under 60% will be scaled)

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2008 3:08 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-02 15:08:21)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: P Jackson
Organization: James Monroe High School
Email: pajackso@access.k12.wv.us
Title:
Address1: Rt 1 Box 97-1-A
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Lindside, WV 24951
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-02-02 15:08:21
Posted from IP: 67.72.98.45

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

As an AP U.S. History teacher I support this policy provision for weighted grades for advanced courses. These students accept the challenge of rigorous college level coursework and a weighted grade is earned. Our county policy stipulates that students are eligible for the increased grade only if he or she takes the AP exam.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2008 8:33 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-03 20:33:19)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Doug Frashure
Organization: Buckhannon-Upshur High School
Email: dfrashur@k12.wv.us
Title: Assistant Principal
Address1: 50 B-U Drive
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201
Role: Principal
Posted: 2008-02-03 20:33:19
Posted from IP: 74.197.144.93

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

I am not sure that making the grade scale higher will cause students be more rigerous. Most colleges use a 10 point scale, as do other schools. I would rather see an larger piont scale that used '+' and '-' rather than just the proposed scale. My high school uses the proposed scale and I would like to see it return to a 10 point scale.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I beleive that honor courses, dual credit, AP and IB courses need to be weighted. In our high school students will not take an honor's class because it is harder and can hurt their grade. Another problem is that the Promise Scholarship requires a 3.0 GPA. Students can be hurt by taking an honors class and getting a lower grade. This is working against encouraging students to take more rigorous classes. I understand that honors courses and AP or IB courses are not the same but the hours could be weighted .5 greater. I deal with parents every year as we schedule classes who want their son or daughter to have the correct teacher and class so their child can receive a high grade to keep the Promose Scholarship. One of my teacher's daughter has taken honor classes over the course of her four years in high school and has received C's which hurt her GPA for the Promise Scholarship. She called the state department to ask about honors course weighting and was told to have her ! daughter take easier classes. By weighting more difficult courses students will be encourage and rewarded for taking these classes.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, February 03, 2008 9:00 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-03 20:59:47)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Stella R. Harvey
Organization:
Email: stellah@cebridge.net
Title:
Address1: Rt.1 Box 306
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Buckhannon, WV 26201
Role: Parent-Family
Posted: 2008-02-03 20:59:47
Posted from IP: 24.206.204.154

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

The dual credit classes (college credit and credit in high school) should also be weghted. This would encourage students take the difficult claases and encourage them to attend WV colleges and universities.
A uniform grading scale with A=90-100,B=89-80,C=79-70,D=69-60.
This would even the playing field throughout the schools from kindergarden through college.
Thanks Stella

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2008 9:42 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-04 09:41:53)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Lynn Hurt
Organization: Wayne County Schools
Email: churt@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Director
Address1: P. O. Box. 70
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Wayne, WV 25570
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2008-02-04 09:41:53
Posted from IP: 168.216.29.154

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

We would like to see the policy give the counties the option of weighting the identified classes rather than requiring the weighted grades.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2008 10:58 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-04 10:57:59)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Linda Dyer
Organization: Webster County High
Email: lsdyer@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Counselor
Address1: 1 Highlander Dr.
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Upper Glade, WV 26206
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2008-02-04 10:57:59
Posted from IP: 168.216.134.62

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

We explored Weighted Grades two years ago. There is an inequality created when a student has any non-credit time in school, such as teacher aid or out of school for work without grade. The person with any less than an A average will be penalized in the ranking process, which seems to be the reason for weighted grades. I realize that some feel that AP classes will be more attractive with a weighted grade, but it all boils down to the final GPA and class ranking. A student should take challenging classes without weighted grades.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 3:39 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-05 15:39:21)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Bridget K. Call
Organization: Matewan High School
Email: bkcall@access.k12.wv.us
Title: chairperson: English/language arts
Address1: 100 Tiger Lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Matewan, WV 25678
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-02-05 15:39:21
Posted from IP: 168.216.16.50

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

Limiting weighted grades to AP and IB only is discriminatory. Students who choose to take enhanced courses-- whatever name, category, or type-- should reap the benefits of the rigor these courses require. Curricular offerings vary widely across the state. As a result, limiting weighted grades to AP and IB would be unnecessarily punitive to students who have no access to those specific courses but do have access to dual credit, honors, or other similar classes.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2008 1:23 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-07 13:22:41)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name:
Organization:
Email:
Title:
Address1:
Address2:
City/State/Zip: ,
Role:
Posted: 2008-02-07 13:22:41
Posted from IP: 168.216.71.70

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

hey girl

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

rerwrer

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 8:53 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-08 08:52:51)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Cynthia Walters
Organization: Hardy County schools
Email: ccwalter@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Spanish Teacher
Address1: 1952 Pine Ridge Rd
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Wardensville, WV 26851
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-02-08 08:52:51
Posted from IP: 168.216.193.168

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

this is one advantage that can be given to students who choose to complete advanced level courses that does not cost money.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

The weighted grading system serves to distinguish the student who obtains a diploma with a focus on vocational studies and is prepared to enter the work force from the academic student who earns the diploma focusing on academic studies and is prepared to enter college.
GRade point averages serve as the criteria for scholarship awards for the college bound student.
If weighted grading is removed from the courses such as foreign language and higher level algebra, physics, then the implication is that the level of difficulty is the same as shop class.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 10:05 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-08 10:04:54)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: James Cimino
Organization:
Email: jamesfsh@hotmail.com
Title:
Address1: 1112 Virginia Ave
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Fairmont, WV 26554
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-02-08 10:04:54
Posted from IP: 168.216.143.138

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I strongly feel that dual college classes must be included on the list of courses for which there is a weighted grade. I have taught French IV at Fairmont Senior in cooperation with French 1102 and 2201 at Fairmont State University since 1995. The rigorous work of completing two syllabi in the school year is a challenge few students are able to do. Those who do certainly deserve the bonus point for this type of class.

If the reasoning behind not including dual credit classes is that many school do not offer this type of course, then the State Dept. of Education should encourage such offerings. To punish those students in schools where dual credit is offered, I feel, is counterproductive to the goals set forth by West Virginia.

I strongly urge your including dual courses as part of the weighted grade system.

Sincerely yours,
James Cimino

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 12:34 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-08 12:34:25)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Dr. Joe Super
Organization: Pleasants County Schools
Email: fsuper@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Superintendent
Address1: Pleasants County Schools
Address2: PO BOX
City/State/Zip: St. Marys, wv 26241
Role: Superintendent
Posted: 2008-02-08 12:34:25
Posted from IP: 168.216.47.241

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

I am very concerned that the WVDE is taking away local "discretion" in deciding to have or not have weighted grades. The Dept. appears to be excluding Dual Credit from the list of courses that shall be weighted. It is my understanding the cooperating college requires a Masters degree in the field by the teacher in order to teach a Dual Credit course. AP only requires "training". Several students do not take the AP exam, yet it shows on their transcript as an AP course. That can be deceiving in a block schedule when the student takes the AP course 2nd semester and will be accepted by a college before the exam is given. Yes, AP and IB courses are suppose to offer a higher level of rigor, so do Dual Credit courses. If the intent of the proposed change is to provide an incentive to take AP and IB courses, offer the same incentive for Dual Credit courses and don't take the discretion from the local agency to weight or not weight those courses.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2008 2:57 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-08 14:57:22)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Robert W. Minney
Organization: East Fairmont Junior High School
Email: rminney@access.k12.wv.us
Title: School Counselor
Address1: 1 Orion Lane
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Fairmont, WV 26554
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2008-02-08 14:57:22
Posted from IP: 168.216.223.20

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

If we are going to use weighted grades, then weight the grades for all college level classes. College Algebra, College Biology, AP English will all give credit in college. If the course does not result in college credit, the grade should not be weighted. An AP class in which the student gets a C and a level 1 or 2 on the exam should not result in 3 credit points on the high school transcript and no college credit. That is doing a disservice to the student with an A in College Algebra who gets college credit, but only 4 points on his or her high school transcript.

POLICY 2515: Uniform Grading

COMMENT PERIOD ENDS: February 11, 2008

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

The following form is provided to assist those who choose to comment on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading at section 1. General and section 4. Weighted Grades. Additional sheets may be attached, if necessary.

Name : Holly Plunkett Organization: University High School

Title: Mathematics Teacher

Street Address: 991 Price Street

City: Morgantown State: WV Zip: 26508

Please check the box below that best describes your role.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School System Superintendent | <input type="checkbox"/> School System Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Principal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> Business/Industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Support Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member |

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades. In order for students to be ranked fairly with their graduating class, the weighting should be phased in. Students who have already taken AP courses without the weighting will be penalized in the class rank compared to those that are now taking these same classes with the extra weighting. Unless each school goes back through transcripts of those students that have already passed AP courses and changes the weighting of the course, those students who took AP courses in their Sophomore and Junior years will be penalized. Monongalia County changed to this policy this year, and after much ado, University High was allowed to phase in the weighting with this year's juniors. Otherwise, a 4.0 student that had already taken 3 or 4 AP classes would end up behind students that had waited until their senior year, was still challenging herself, but had maxed out on the AP classes in which she was interested.

Please direct all comments to:

Carla Williamson
Office of Instruction
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Building 6, Room 608

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
E-Mail Address: cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Fax No.: (304) 558-1834

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 11:08 AM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-11 11:07:32)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Mary Anne Carpenter
Organization: Webster County Schools
Email: mcarpent@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Administrator
Address1: 315 S. Main Street
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Webster Springs, WV 26288
Role: School System Staff
Posted: 2008-02-11 11:07:32
Posted from IP: 168.216.249.110

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

There is a fundamental mathematical fallacy in the weighted grades model that affects a student's GPA and class ranking. If a student takes fewer credits, they can receive a higher GPA and class ranking than someone who takes more credits (the denominator for GPAs). For example, a student with all regular A's and 1 A in an AP class - 30 Credits GPA=4.033 32 Credits GPA=4.031 34 Credits=GPA 4.029. Just a slight difference but the student with 30 credits would rank number 1. The same is true for students with all regular A's and 2 A's in AP credit classes. 30 Credits=GPA4.066 32 Credits GPA=4.062 34 Credits GPA=4.058. Students can end up with different numbers of credits for a variety of reasons including taking high school classes in 8th grade, extra classes in high school through Virtual Schools, or other reasons. This problem needs to be addressed either by making the number of credits for figuring the GPA consistent (just count core or requirements) or some other! method. Parents and students will figure this out when GPAs and class ranking. Students who complete the additional classes we want them to will rank lower.

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 1:19 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-11 13:19:00)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Sharon Hinerman-Hall
Organization: John Marshall High School
Email: shinerma@access.k12.wv.us
Title: Business Education Teacher
Address1: 1300 Wheeling Ave.
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Glen Dale, WV 26038
Role: Teacher
Posted: 2008-02-11 13:19:00
Posted from IP: 76.120.143.59

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Not giving extra credit or weight to Honors courses will end up eliminating Honors courses. Honors classes should continue to be weighted or given bonus credit. What incentive is there to take an Honors class with the additional extra work and/or faster pace only to end up with the same credit as a non-honors course.

Students have already accumulated bonus credit for Honors and AP classes for one, two, or three years, which will be wiped out effective July 1, 2008. Changes in uniform grading should be phased in just like graduation requirements. It is unfair to put this policy into effect on July 1 since students have taken Honors and AP Classes under other County grading systems with the knowledge that they are receiving additional bonus credit to determine their GPA only to have it all wiped out at once.

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

A student can take fewer classes and still end up with a higher GPA.
Our county used only weighted grades like this many years ago and found out the students were working the system to get the highest GPA. They could actually drop a class or take fewer classes and end up with a higher GPA.

Ex. $(22 \text{ courses} * 4.0) + (7 \text{ AP courses} * 5.0) = 123/29 = 4.2413793$
 $(21 \text{ courses} * 4.0) + (7 \text{ AP courses} * 5.0) = 119/28 = 4.2500000$
The student with 28 courses has a slightly higher GPA.

Also consider the comparison of a student confined to 28 courses in an eight-period day over four years with a student who has taken 32 courses in a block schedule over four years.

$$\text{Ex. } (25 \text{ courses} * 4.0) + (7 \text{ AP courses} * 5.0) = 135/32 = 4.21875$$

$$(20 \text{ courses} * 4.0) + (7 \text{ AP courses} * 5.0) = 119/28 = 4.25$$

The student with fewer classes ends up with a slightly higher GPA.

We add bonus credit (based on the grade earned) to the traditional 4.0 non-weighted scale. This calculation currently makes extra work for guidance counselors or WVEIS coordinators because they have to do manual calculations for AP and Honors students. I'm sure a program could be written for WVEIS to do this. We use the following bonus credit scale:

| AP Classes | Honors Classes |
|------------|----------------|
| A .025 | A .020 |
| B .020 | B .015 |
| C .015 | C .010 |
| D .010 | D .005 |
| F 0 | F 0 |

After the GPA is calculated in the traditional way, the bonus credit is added on. For example, a student who has a GPA of 3.5 who has taken two AP classes and has received A's in both of them would have a GPA of 3.55 ($3.5 + .025 + .025$).

Carla Williamson

From: Nobody [nobody@wvde.state.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 3:28 PM
To: fibanez@wvde.state.wv.us; cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comment Received for Policy 2515 (2008-02-11 15:28:24)

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Comment Received for Policy 2515

#####

Name: Karen Canterbury
Organization: Mingo County Schools
Email: krcanter@access.k12.wv.us
Title: County Test Coordinator and Counselor
Address1: Rt. 2, Box 310
Address2:
City/State/Zip: Williamson, WV 25661
Role: Professional Support
Posted: 2008-02-11 15:28:24
Posted from IP: 168.216.73.198

Comments for section 126-37-1 General

Comments for section 126-37-4 Weighted Grades

The problem with weighting grades in the manner proposed is that if two students have all A's and both students have the same number of weighted A's, but one student has fewer regular A's than the other, the student with fewer regular A's will always have the higher gpa. One reason one student might have fewer A's is because all districts do not offer the same number of credits per year and students transfer from one district to another. Also, sometimes students are granted exemptions from attending the full school day in order to take a college class (not dual credit). To solve this problem in our county, we average all grades based on a 4.0 scale. Then we add to the average "extra values" for grades for AP courses. For each A in an AP course, we add .05 to the gpa; for each B in an AP course, we add .04, and for each C in an AP course, we add .03. We used to average weighted grades in the manner proposed in the state policy, but we changed to the "extra values" method! in 1999 because of the problems I have described.

Carla Williamson

From: dhallbd@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 7:49 PM
To: cljwilli@access.k12.wv.us
Cc: dhallbd@comcast.net
Subject: Policy 2515: Uniform Grading

I am a parent and local school board member from Marshall County. I presently have a daughter at John Marshall High School and a son who graduated from that school. I fought this battle in my son's case a number of years ago.

You are adopting a policy that is inherently unfair to students. Every high school in this state has a limited number of AP and IB courses to offer their students. Whatever the weighted factor of that grade is above 4.0, the greater the number of courses that a student takes in addition to the weighted courses, the lower their grade point average becomes. The GPA will compress back to the 4.0 because the limited quality points earned by weighted classes will be divided by a larger number (THE NUMBER OF COURSES THAT A STUDENT TAKES) thus lowering the grade point average. This encourages your brightest and best students to drop classes to become the number one student in their respective schools. This is not the desired result that you want with this policy.

Do the math! Pick a number of AP and/or IB courses that student A and student B takes in their high school career, let's say 7, and weight them at 5.0. Both students have made all A's in all courses. Student A has 28 credits, accumulated 119 quality points and has a GPA of 4.25. Student B has 32 credits, accumulated 135 quality points and has a GPA of 4.21875. Student A is the number ONE student in that school. If student B continues to take classes above 32 an A in #33 results in a GPA of 4.212121, #34 an A, GPA 4.20588. As you can easily see the more classes the student takes and still makes A's the lower the GPA becomes!!! It is hard to believe that a student taking 28 credits, the same number of AP and IB courses that the student with 34 credits, can make a B in one of the 4.0 classes accumulates 118 quality points has a 4.2142857 GPA which is higher than the student with 34 credits, all A's, GPA 4.2058! 8. ; This is why it is UNFAIR to students.

This could very easily happen through out the state. Opportunities at various feeder schools lends the possibility of students entering high school with different numbers of high school credits thus setting the table for this to happen. Conflicts in high school schedules cause students to accrue different numbers of graduation credits.

Everyone knows that the number ONE student in every high school is afforded the opportunity to attain more scholarship monies than others in the same class of that school!!!

I am a retired educator, 23 years in the science classroom, 9 years as a high school principal, and am finishing my first term on the Marshall County School Board. If I can be of further assistance in this matter please feel free to contact me, David L. Hall, 945 Echo Valley, Glen Dale, WV, 26038 or by phone 304-845-9374.

P.S. Also, do not limit individual counties ability to offer more challenging Honors classes, also weighted, with more rigorous content standards to their students. Why should this matter to the State Board of Education? Please share this with fellow board members.

FILED

2008 APR 11 PM 4:18

126CSR37

**LEGISLATIVE RULE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**SERIES 37
Uniform Grading (2515)**

§126-37-1. General.

1.1. Scope. – This legislative rule establishes a uniform grading policy that must be used by all schools in West Virginia for any course for which high school credit is to be awarded.

1.2. Authority. – W.Va. Constitution, Article XII, §2 and W.Va. Code §18-2-5.

1.3. Filing Date. – April 11, 2008.

1.4. Effective Date. – July 1, 2008.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. This legislative rule amends W. Va. 126CSR37, West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2515, Uniform Grading, filed May 21, 2003 and effective July 1, 2003.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

2.1. The West Virginia Board of Education establishes a uniform grading policy that must be used by all county boards of education for those courses for which high school credit is to be awarded.

§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points.

3.1. Section 3.2 sets forth a grading scale that must be used for any course taken for high school credit, regardless of the grade level of the student at the time the course is taken, other than courses that county boards of education choose pursuant to Section 4.

3.2. Non-weighted course grading scale:

| Average | Grade | Quality Points |
|---------|-------|----------------|
| 93-100 | A | 4.0 |
| 85-92 | B | 3.0 |
| 75-84 | C | 2.0 |
| 65-74 | D | 1.0 |
| 0-64 | F | 0 |

3.3. County school systems may, but are not required to, adopt this grading scale for use in courses or grade levels for which high school credit is not involved.

126CSR37

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades.

4.1. County boards of education shall issue weighted grades for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses for which high school credit is to be awarded. Section 4.2 sets forth the grading scale that must be used for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. County boards of education continue to have discretionary authority to issue weighted grades for other advanced high school courses.

4.2. Weighted course grading scale.

| Average | Grade | Quality Points |
|---------|-------|----------------|
| 93-100 | A | 5.0 |
| 85-92 | B | 4.0 |
| 75-84 | C | 3.0 |
| 65-74 | D | 2.0 |
| 0-64 | F | 0 |

§126-37-5. Severability.

5.1. If any provision of this rule or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this rule.

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title: **W. Va. 126CSR37, Policy 2515: Uniform Grading**
Type of Rule: Legislative Interpretive Procedural
Agency: West Virginia Board of Education
Address: Capitol Building 6, Room 351
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
Phone Number: 304.558.3762 Email: jmcclan@access.k12.wv.us

Fiscal Note Summary

Summarize in a clear and concise manner what impact this measure will have on costs and revenues of state government.

| |
|---|
| No costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 126CSR37, Policy 2515: Uniform Grading. |
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Fiscal Note Detail

Show over-all effect in Item 1 and 2 and, in Item 3, give an explanation of Breakdown by fiscal year, including long-range effect.

| FISCAL YEAR | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Effect of Proposal | Current Increase/Decrease (use "-" for decrease) | Next Increase/Decrease (use "-" for decrease) | Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation) |
| 1. Estimated Total Cost | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Personal Services | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Current Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Repairs & Alterations | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Assets | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Estimated Total Revenues | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Rule Title: **W. Va. 126CSR37, Policy 2515: Uniform Grading**

Rule Title: **W. Va. 126CSR37, Policy 2515: Uniform Grading**

3. Explanation of above estimates (including long-range effect);

Please include any increase or decrease in fees in your estimated total revenues.

No costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 126CSR37, Policy 2515: Uniform Grading.

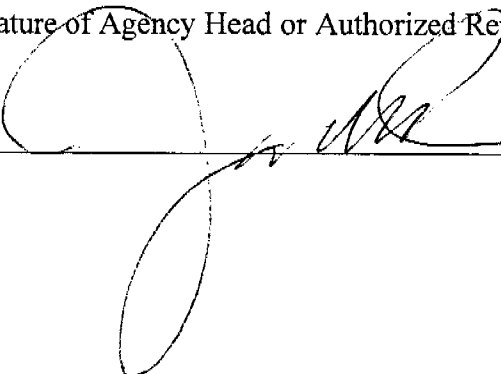
MEMORANDUM

Please identify any areas of vagueness, technical defects, reasons the proposed rule **would not** have a fiscal impact, and/or any special issues **not** captured elsewhere on this form.

No costs or revenues will be impacted by the proposed amendment of W. Va. 126CSR37, Policy 2515: Uniform Grading. The proposed policy amendments direct county boards of education to issue weighted grades for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses and further that said courses be awarded grades as set forth in the proposed weighted course grading scale.

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

Date



12/28/07

**Policy 2515: Uniform Grading
Comment Log**

January 11, 2008 to February 11, 2008

Action Type
 N: No Response - Negative
 NA: Not Accepted + Positive
 A: Accepted o Neutral

| Date | Individual/Organization | Comments | Action/ Type | Rationale |
|-------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| 01-25 | Tom Williams Principal tewillia@access.k12.wv.us St. Albans High School 2100 Kanawha Terrace St. Albans WV 25177 | <p>§126-37-1 General</p> <p>Carla: I feel this policy will prevent students from taking upper level courses. Those students who may be honors level but not AP level will be discouraged from taking the honors level courses because their grades will not be weighted. Students, and parents, will be concerned about maintaining grades for the PROMISE.... "Don't take the AP Class it will hurt your chances of maintaining a 3.0 and qualifying for the PROMISE".</p> <p>IB is an expensive program and I would venture to say most counties cannot afford to provide this program for their students....so for 99% of the students in WV the only way they can obtain a weighted grade is to take an AP course. I feel this is unfair to the middle group who would push themselves to take weighted courses but are not capable of AP.</p> <p>As a parent I feel students should be rewarded for taking the upper level classes. My son is taking 2 College Math Classes, Physics, Chem 2, Bio 2, and Honors History/English...does he not</p> | NA/- | Does not prevent a county from weighting honors courses. Later had a conversation with Dr. Williams and he realized he had misread the proposed policy and asked that his comment be removed. |

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| | <p>deserve weighted credit over the senior who glides through his senior year? Of course he does....as an educator I know the value of students taking challenging courses but what about the thousands of parents who don't realize they should push their children-they will see little value because there is no "reward".</p> <p>I understand the concept behind this policy change...push more kids into AP and thus better prepare them for success in college....I am afraid the reality will be pushing kids away from AP and the Honors/Weighted courses-and thus having more kids in remedial courses in college....I am not willing to take that chance with the future of children....I believe with increased rigor/relevance and 21st Century Skills for the honors programs students will gain the confidence they need to move on to AP classes...I would be happy to further discuss this and can be reached at school...722-0212. Tom</p> | | |
| 01-25 | <p>I believe the entire state should have the same grading scale.</p> <p>It is not fair to the students that have a high scale and other students have a lower standard. If the state wants every body on the same level then grades must be the same.</p> | NA | <p>The state does have a uniform grading scale as stated in this policy. What has been changed is the weighting for quality points for AP and IB courses.</p> |
| 01-25 | <p>Demaina Sue Beller Classroom teacher dsbranha@k12.wv.us Education 11971 Coal River Road Whitesville WV 25209</p> | NA | <p>The uniform grading scale was not altered with the current revision and has been in effect since July 2003.</p> |
| 01-27 | <p>Kathleen Daugherty Social Studies Teacher kd843202@ohiou.edu Buckhannon Upshur H.S. 58 Smithfield St. Buckhannon WV 26201</p> | NA | <p>Although, there is no suggested change for the overall grading school, one should be considered. The grading scale needs to be changed to be comparable with other states, which will allow our students to compete with other students country wide when applying to colleges and universities, as well as scholarships. In 1999, Ohio changed their</p> |

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| | <p>grading scales to 100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C, ect. I know other states have switched to that grading scale as well. We are trying to give our students the best opportunities as possible and to do so, we must give our students this advantage to be competitive with others from around the country.</p> <p>You should consider uniform grades across the state the same as college. A-100-90, B-89-80, C-79-70, D-69-60 Thank you</p> | <p>NA/-</p> | <p>The uniform grading scale was not altered with the current revision and has been in effect since July 2003.</p> |
| <p>01-28</p> | <p>Kenneth Harvey teacher kharvey@access.k12.wv.us Buckhannon-Upshur High School 50 Bu Drive Buckhannon WV 26201</p> | <p>A uniform state grading scale will allow colleges to compare students from different counties in a more appropriate manner. The only thing on a transcript is the final letter grade and colleges do not see the actual average for a regular class. So a 92% in one county is an "A" where it would be a "B" in an adjoining county. Even though the grade averages are the same, one student now has an advantage over another. All teachers in each subject and grade level are held to the same content standards across the state. It is only fitting the same material being taught should be held to the same grading standards as well.</p> <p>I am not sure that making the grade scale higher will cause students to be more rigorous. Most colleges use a 10 point scale, as do other schools. I would rather see an larger piont scale that used '+' and '-' rather than just the proposed scale. My high school uses the proposed scale and I would like to see it return to a 10 point scale.</p> | <p>NA/-</p> |
| <p>01-30</p> | <p>Robert Lyons Teacher rlyons@access.k12.wv.us Westside High School HC 65 Box 275 Clear Fork WV 24822</p> | <p>A/+</p> | |
| <p>02-03</p> | <p>Doug Frashure Assistant Principal dfrashur@k12.wv.us Buckhannon-Upshur High School 50 B-U Drive Buckhannon WV 26201</p> | <p>NA/-</p> | <p>We did not make the uniform grading scale more rigorous. We changed only the weighting for the quality points.</p> |

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| 01-17 | <p>Paula Staley Assistant Director pstaley@access.k12.wv.us WVDE - OTSPI 1900 Kanawha Blvd East Charleston WV 25305</p> | <p>I question this move unless there are stipulations attached for both the student and/or the teacher. I have visited classes where the AP class has less rigor than a good regular level course. Many of our systems are including AP in the schedule to meet the letter of the policy. I visited one school where students from two different courses were taught in the same room, same period, by the same teacher, no difference in content, with ZERO passage rate of those tested the past two years. Teachers are not required to take the certifying course(through CPD), students are not scheduled into the classes with the expectation of testing, and parents will be given an open door to only wanting the label of AP on the transcript with the extra weight and not the obligation on the student's part to put forth greater effort and work harder. This weighting system opens the door to students completing the bare minimum(65%) and receiving the equivalent of a C on the transcript. I would like to see us wait on this until after we can compile data relative to enrollment, teacher training (CPD), testing registration, and finally testing pass rate.</p> | NA/- | <p>Policy 2510 provides for the required professional development for teachers of AP courses. In order for a course to be called AP, and for the student to receive AP credit, the teacher's syllabus must be reviewed by College Board. The offices within the WVDE may be required to examine the WVEIS course files for AP courses and complete a cross walk with College Board approval records and CPD professional development participants in order to clarify the requirements of Policy related to AP.</p> | |
| 01-18 | <p>Matthew S. Postlethwait Classroom teacher mpostlethwait@fairmontsta te.edu Randolph County Schools 116 Buffalo Street Elkins WV 26241</p> | <p>If I read this correctly, and I believe that I do, it is being proposed that only AP and IB courses be accepted for weighted grades. This is a rather shortsighted proposal. To begin, Advanced Placement (AP) is a product that does not guarantee any college credit to the student. After completing the course, the students are required to pay for and take the test. This merely benefits a corporate entity as the expense of school budgets and parent and student incomes. Duel-</p> | NA/- | <p>This policy does not prevent a county school system from providing weighted grades for other challenging and rigorous advanced courses; the policy does require that weighted grades be given for AP and IB courses.</p> | |

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| 01-24 | Patrick Leggett School Counselor pleggett@access.k12.wv.us | <p>credit courses offer a more challenging and a more valuable experience for the student, and they serve as a good recruiting tool for the college offering the dual-credit. These students receive up to six college credit hours to transfer to an in-state school. These classes not only make the high school experience more valuable for the student, but they help the state's higher education institutions by allowing them to increase their student enrollment. This helps to keep students in state while attending post-secondary educational facilities. Students earn these credits while still in high school and generally from qualified faculty who know them and can better serve them. This allows for a more meaning and successful introduction to the college setting and is more likely to allow the student to integrate more successfully, and subsequently be more likely to graduate with a post-secondary degree. By continuing to pursue the policy as written, you will be forcing students into less valuable and meaningful AP classes and stripping away an opportunity to take classes that will allow students to graduate with a jump start on their education, thus making it more likely for them to continue with their schooling. Continue to count dual-credit classes as weighted classes so that students will not be forced to choose between taking classes to achieve class rank and classes that truly benefit them by allowing them to begin their college careers.</p> <p>Weighted grades are a mockery of the touted rigorous curriculum in too many counties. This sets a standard of rigor that is recognized and accepted across the nation's higher education</p> | NA/- | |
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| | <p>Point Pleasant High School Rt 1 Box 4 Ohio River Road Point Pleasant WV 25550</p> | <p>institutions as just that. Thank you.</p> | | |
| 01-24 | <p>Bonnie White bwgearup@yahoo.com 265 Windham Place Masonstown WV 26542</p> | <p>I agree with the adoption of all schools using the weighted grade system. These courses are advanced and/or college credit classes and require much more work, therefore deserving of more credit.</p> | A/+ | |
| 01-25 | <p>Tom Chaffins Secondary supervisor tchaffin@access.k12.wv.us Mercer Co Schools 1403 honaker Ave Princeton WV 24740</p> | <p>If we are encouraging our students to take more rigorous courses there should be an avenue to reward these students. That reward is weighting which is sort of a carrot to encourage those who are very concerned about their GPA. I am sure that HSs throughout the state could site examples of a student not wanting to take a more difficult class because of their GPA or an example of a student who did take a more difficult class, only to have a lower class rank because someone else chose the less difficult classes and got a higher grade. If you are going to make it mandatory for all counties, then I would propose to include most, if not all, of the areas already weighted such as Honors, etc.</p> | A/+ | <p>County boards of education continue to have discretionary authority to issue weighted grades for other advanced high school courses. Due to numerous comments and questions from the field, this sentence was added to policy</p> |
| 01-25 | <p>Demaina Sue Beller Classroom teacher dsbranha@k12.wv.us Education 11971 Coal River Road Whitesville WV 25209</p> | <p>Students that take the higher classes should be given credit. Students making choices to broaden their knowledge deserve to know their hard work was worth something in school. LIFE</p> | A/+ | |
| 01-25 | <p>Bonnie Ritz Director of Curriculum & Instruction britz@access.k12.wv.us</p> | <p>Without addressing the issue of weighted honors grades it is difficult to consider this a uniform grading policy.</p> | A/+ | <p>This policy does not prevent a county from weighting honors courses.</p> |

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| 01-26 | <p>Marshall County Schools 2700 Fourth Street Moundsville WV 26041</p> <p>Elizabeth Thompson Math Teacher ethompso@access.k12.wv.us Logan High School c/o Logan High School One Wildcat Way Logan WV 25601</p> | <p>Please give serious pause before deciding not to include "Honors" classes for weighted grades. Not all curricula fall under AP classification; by providing more rigorous and thought provoking courses under the "honors" classification, we are able to challenge and improve the quality of education being provided to students who truly want a good education.</p> <p>These students should not be punished for taking harder courses by allowing those who don't take such courses equal grading standards.</p> <p>I teach two honors math classes; I can assure you that my programs will be lost if my students are not provided with an incentive of "fairness" in the grading of these courses.</p> <p>We desperately need the quality students who take "honors" courses in this country; please don't let our public school system let them down, yet again!</p> <p>Elizabeth Thompson</p> | A/O | This policy does not prevent counties from weighting honors courses. |
| 01-26 | <p>Suzette Cook Superintendent scook@access.k12.wv.us McDowell County Schools 30 Central Avenue Welch WV 24801</p> | <p>Great Idea!! I think this will help to encourage students to take AP Classes.</p> | A/+ | |
| 01-27 | | <p>Honors & AP classes should be worth 1.0 more than the general classes on a 4.0 scale.</p> | N | Does not prevent a county system from weighting honors courses |
| 01-27 | <p>Kathleen Daugherty Social Studies Teacher kd843202@ohiou.edu Buckhannon Upshur H.S.</p> | <p>Weighted grades need to be allowed for AP classes. Students are opting to take easier courses, rather than challenging themselves, so that they are able to secure a better grade so</p> | A/+ | |

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| | 58 Smithfield St. Buckhannon WV 26201 | that they can get into their college/university of their choice and be more competitive when applying for scholarships. As educators, we want our students to strive to better themselves in everyway possible. Unless we decide to weight grades for AP classes, students will continue to opt out and take easier classes, so that they can ensure that they will stay competitive with other students. | | |
| 01-28 | Marian Covey Coordinator mecovey@access.k12.wv.us WVDE 106 Garfield Street Beckley WV 25801 | We work with high schools across the state, specifically observing instructional practices in the classroom. We look for a classroom that is student-centered and operating at a high level of thinking. That is what is expected in a "regular" level of class if we hope to prepare our students for the workforce of the 21st century. Even in classes "labeled" AP, the rigor is often substandard. Since teachers are not required to be AP certified to teach AP, the enticement of weighted grades may only serve to further "devalue" the course. Students would be able to work at the lowest level and receive the equivalent of a "C" on the transcript. It would seem this is taking a step backward in what we are trying to do. | NA/- | Policy 2510 provides for the required professional development for teachers of AP courses. In order for a course to be called AP, and for the student to receive AP credit, the teacher's syllabus must be reviewed by College Board. The offices within the WVDE may be required to examine the WVEIS course files for AP courses and complete a cross walk with College Board approval records and CPD professional development participants in order to clarify the requirements of Policy related to AP. |
| 01-28 | Don White Asst. Supt./Title I Director djwhite@access.k12.wv.us Mercer County Schools 1403 Honaker Avenue Princeton WV 24740 David Dilly | We currently weight Pre-AP Language Arts classes. This prep class is vital to the matriculation of students to the AP level. The weighted grade helps recruit students for AP classes. I would hope this is considered in the final version of the policy. Weighted grades are not a beneficial to students. | A/0 | This policy will not prevent the county from weighting other rigorous courses |
| 01-28 | | | NA/- | In order for a course to be |

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| <p>01-28</p> | <p>ddilly@access.k12.wv.us RT 1 box 153 26269 WV 26269</p> | <p>By simply stating that these classes are harder than other classes or should be worth more due to their status may or may not be true. Policy should not be written to place an added value to a classes. I think that it should be left up to local boards of education where classes can be evaluated and judged on their individual merit.</p> | <p>A/0</p> | <p>identified in WV as AP, the teacher must present a syllabus to College Board for approval. CPD offers professional development to prepare the teacher to teach the AP curriculum. Policy 2510 provides for the required professional development for teachers of AP courses. In order for a course to be called AP, and for the student to receive AP credit, the teacher's syllabus must be reviewed by College Board. The offices within the WVDE may be required to examine the WVEIS course files for AP courses and complete a cross walk with College Board approval records and CPD professional development participants in order to clarify the requirements of Policy related to AP.</p> |
| <p>01-28</p> | <p>Janet Kalbaugh counselor gkalbaugh@comcast.net Mineral Co Schools HC 72 Box 252 keyser WV 26726</p> | <p>Does the policy imply that only AP and IB would be weighted? Our system weights dual credit college classes through Potomac State of WVU. Approximately 1/4 of the senior class will have at least 12 hours of college credit at graduation. Having already started the scheduling process for 08-09, students who enrolled for more challenging courses will choose to take an easier selection when they learn that after July 1 college</p> | <p>A/0</p> | <p>This policy does not prevent a county from weighting other rigorous courses.</p> |

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| 01-28 | Richard Hicks Superintendent rhicks@access.k12.wv.us Tucker County Board of Education 501 Chestnut Street Parsons WV 26287 | and honors classes will no longer be weighted. I am philosophically opposed to weighted grades. The State of West Virginia has become involved in the process of "Assessment For Learning". The whole concept of this approach is to utilize assessments to reflect content mastery. By placing artificial weights on grades for the purpose of "providing an incentive" negates the use of assessments as measures and once again puts them into the realm of using grades for GPA recognition and competition. | N/- | |
| 01-28 | Elaine Matheny ecmatheny@yahoo.com 3010 Kathnor lane Point Pleasant WV 25550 | The incentive for taking AP and similar courses is to pass the AP exams and secure college credits. As I understand weighted grades, the colleges do not use the 5 point system to calculate high school seniors GPA even if the county does use weighted grades. Our county has used them for honors classes as well as AP and IB. Does this rule stop the use of the 5 pt scale for honors classes? Perhaps the colleges do use the 5 point scale for AP, but I know that students have been disappointed when their college entrance GPA is not as high as they thought it was. I think that our state should adopt a grading policy for high school that is in agreement with the colleges in state and out of state so that there is no further confusion in this regard. | NA/- | This policy does not prevent the weighting of grades in honors classes. School staff must be responsible for providing students with information related to college admission and the students should learn how to communicate their performance to the institutions of higher education. Students who master the content of the AP course know what institutions will grant college credit for a course; this is |

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| 01-28 | Christy Holcomb chip1969@skywayusa.net Rt. 6 Box 285A Fairmont WV 26554 | In changing this policy I would like it to be considered to make this a statewide change in the grading system every county and every school follow the exact same grading scale. It just so happens that I myself am having an issue with the weighted grading system. I think that the policy should be concise as not to leave any room for interpretation. For instance it needs to list what subjects count and which do not such as does gym class get the same weight as English? Also, this should be for grades k-12 not just high school. Rules are very unclear as to what grading scale grades k-8 are using. Could the policy not be updated to include each grade level and at each grade level what subjects are included in the grading scale for instance Grade 1 math grade A = 5 pts B=4 Grade 1 Art Grade A=2pts Personally, I feel in general that all required subject should be equal from grade k-12, I do not think there should be any weighing allowed at all however, if their is my suggestions are above. | NA/+ and - | their reward from higher education. The reward from the school system for enrolling in the more challenging coursework is the weighted quality points scale. |
| 01-28 | Kenneth Harvey teacher kharvey@access.k12.wv.us Buckhannon-Upshur High School 50 Bu Drive | Weighted grades give additional incentive for the students to take harder classes and rewards them for their hard work Thank you | A/+ | This policy does provide for uniform grading scale, and it does require that AP and IB courses be weighted with regard to quality points. However, each county has the responsibility for identifying those courses that are rigorous and challenging enough to require weighted credit. |

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| 01-29 | Buckhannon WV 26201 Judy Grace Teacher jgrace@access.k12.wv.us TCHS 1993 Silver Knight Drive Sistersville WV 25179 | I am a AP Calculus teacher at Tyler Consolidated. I feel that AP courses need to allow for the weighted grading ie 90-100 is an A, 80-90 is a B etc. (note that I am not overinflating their GPA) because the course work involved is much more strenuous than a high school course. After all the students can earn college credit should they score 3 or better on their AP test in May. The work load is much greater than a high school course. These students are striving to increase their academics before attending college making them better prepared. They should be awarded for their efforts not penalized. I am confident that without the weighted grading system at our school we would have fewer students attempting the more rigorous AP classes. | NA/- | The uniform grading scale was adopted in 2003. This policy change addresses the weighting of quality points for AP and IB courses. |
| 01-30 | Robert Lyons Teacher rlyons@access.k12.wv.us Westside High School HC 65 Box 275 Clear Fork WV 24822 | I fully agree that students in AP or IB courses should be rewarded for taking the more challenging courses. Each school has courses that students deem as an "easy A." In Wyoming County, we had a situation in 1991 where an SE student graduated seventh in a class of 150 students one year over students that had taken AP courses. Our county began looking into weighting some courses and adopted a policy very shortly afterwards. One matter to watch for is the courses on the weighted list. Will only AP and IB courses be weighted statewide? Will counties have the flexibility to add other courses? Will the state require students to take the exams for each course to receive the weighted grade (our county and others currently do). | A/+ | The policy does allow for other counties to identify other honors or advanced courses that they deem more rigorous and challenging for weighted credit. |

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| | | <p>Another matter that comes to mind is the point distribution. We tell parents that an "A" is 5 points on a weighted scale and semester averages are actually calculated like this. Final graduation rank, however, is a little more complicated and I cannot explain it without writing a short version of "War and Peace" without giving it justice. I will say that we calculate it different for final GPA rank because we do not want a student to have an ungraded class period such as an office assistant and receive a higher GPA than a student with a full class load that happened to be in an unweighted class during a period the office worker would be ungraded. The math would actually penalize the student for taking an unweighted course in that instance even if both students have the same course load and the same grades throughout the rest of the day.</p> | |
| <p>01-30</p> | <p>Betty Jo Jordan Executive Director bjordan@access.k12.wv.us WVDE 1900 Kanawha Blvd E Building 6 Room 221 Charleston WV 25305</p> | <p>4.1 - It is important for students to complete rigorous courses but many students simply enroll in AP courses to receive the weighted grade and inflate the GPA and do not seriously apply themselves to the rigor of the course. (Of course many would say some students in regular courses exhibit the same lack of initiative). I think we should also establish the expectation for taking the AP exam and base the weighted grade on completing the AP course and taking the exam. There is body of research supporting that taking the course and preparing for the rigors of the exam are beneficial to students' achievement and success in postsecondary education. I would not base the weighted grade on the AP course exam score - since exam scores are usually not received until after the end of the school year.</p> | <p>A/O</p> |
| | | <p>This policy does not prevent a county from weighting other advanced or honors classes that they deem rigorous and challenging. WVDE does need to investigate the requirement for taking the AP exam.</p> | |

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| | | <p>I also believe weighted grades should be given to college courses students take for dual credit.</p> <p>4.2 course grading scale - I believe giving weight to any grade below a C does not communicate high expectations for student performance and would support weighting only for grades of A-B.</p> <p>Most would agree that it's difficult to be against uniform grades. With high stakes in education because of the Promise scholarship, this need for uniformity is paramount. However, once the line is breached, how far should we venture? Dual credit classes, for instance, should at least be considered for weighting. After all, they are college classes earning college credit. Thanks.</p> | A/O | Policy does not prevent the county school system from identifying other courses for weighted credit. |
| 01-31 | <p>Mike Sharpolisky English Dept. Chair zskiwalker@cebridge.net B-UHS 50 B-U Drive Buckhannon WV 26201</p> | <p>Since Colleges prefer a 4.0 scale, why don't we weight by the following?</p> <p>90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 0-59 E</p> <p>P. S. For counties using % instead of letter grades for reporting, perhaps we could use the attached scale—or some similar to adjust percents to fit the scale listed above.</p> <p>100....100 99.... 99 98.... 98 97.... 97 96.... 96 95.... 96 94.... 95</p> | NA/O | |
| 01-31 | <p>Rhoda Fitzsimmons Paden City High Math Teacher Paden City, WV 26159</p> | | | |

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| 02-02 | P Jackson | <p>93.....94</p> <p>92.....93</p> <p>91.....93</p> <p>90.....93</p> <p>89.....92</p> <p>88.....91</p> <p>87.....90</p> <p>86.....89</p> <p>85.....88</p> <p>84.....87</p> <p>83.....86</p> <p>82.....85</p> <p>81.....85</p> <p>80.....85</p> <p>79.....84</p> <p>78.....83</p> <p>77.....82</p> <p>76.....81</p> <p>75.....80</p> <p>74.....79</p> <p>73.....78</p> <p>72.....77</p> <p>71.....76</p> <p>70.....75</p> <p>69.....74</p> <p>68.....73</p> <p>67.....72</p> <p>66.....71</p> <p>65.....70</p> <p>64.....69</p> <p>63.....68</p> <p>62.....67</p> <p>61.....66</p> <p>60.....65</p> <p>No grade under 60% will be scaled.</p> <p>As an AP U.S. History teacher I support this</p> | A/+ | |
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| | <p>pajackso@access.k12.wv.us James Monroe High School Rt 1 Box 97-1-A Lindside WV 24951</p> | <p>policy provision for weighted grades for advanced courses. These students accept the challenge of rigorous college level coursework and a weighted grade is earned. Our county policy stipulates that students are eligible for the increased grade only if he or she takes the AP exam.</p> | |
| 02-03 | <p>Doug Frashure Assistant Principal dfrashur@k12.wv.us Buckhannon-Upshur High School 50 B-U Drive Buckhannon WV 26201</p> | <p>I believe that honor courses, dual credit, AP and IB courses need to be weighted. In our high school students will not take an honor's class because it is harder and can hurt their grade. Another problem is that the Promise Scholarship requires a 3.0 GPA. Students can be hurt by taking an honors class and getting a lower grade. This is working against encouraging students to take more rigorous classes. I understand that honors courses and AP or IB courses are not the same but the hours could be weighted .5 greater. I deal with parents every year as we schedule classes who want their son or daughter to have the correct teacher and class so their child can receive a high grade to keep the Promise Scholarship. One of my teacher's daughter has taken honor classes over the course of her four years in high school and has received C's which hurt her GPA for the Promise Scholarship. She called the state department to ask about honors course weighting and was told to have her daughter take easier classes. By weighting more difficult courses students will be encourage and rewarded for taking these classes.</p> <p>The dual credit classes (college credit and credit in high school) should also be weighted. This would encourage students take the difficult classes and encourage them to attend WV colleges and universities.</p> | A/+ |
| 02-03 | <p>Stella R. Harvey stellah@cebridge.net Rt. 1 Box 306 Buckhannon WV 26201</p> | | NA/- |
| | | | Policy does not prevent the weighting of other rigorous and challenging honors classes. The uniform grading policy has been |

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| 02-04 | Lynn Hurt Director churt@access.k12.wv.us Wayne County Schools P. O. Box. 70 Wayne WV 25570 | A uniform grading scale with A=90-100,B=89-80,C=79-70,D=69-60. This would even the playing field throughout the schools from kindergarten through college. Thanks Stella We would like to see the policy give the counties the option of weighting the identified classes rather than requiring the weighted grades. | A/0 | effective since July 2003 and was designed with input from superintendents and representatives from counties throughout WV. Requires only that AP and IB courses be weighted. County school systems may weight other honors, advanced courses that they deem to be rigorous and challenging. |
| 02-04 | Linda Dyer Counselor lsdyer@access.k12.wv.us Webster County High 1 Highlander Dr. Upper Glade WV 26206 | We explored Weighted Grades two years ago. There is an inequality created when a student has any non-credit time in school, such as teacher aid or out of school for work without grade. The person with any less than an A average will be penalized in the ranking process, which seems to be the reason for weighted grades. I realize that some feel that AP classes will be more attractive with a weighted grade, but it all boils down to the final GPA and class ranking. A student should take challenging classes without weighted grades. | NA/- | |
| 02-05 | Bridget K. Call chairperson: English/language arts bkcall@access.k12.wv.us Matewan High School 100 Tiger Lane Matewan WV 25678 | Limiting weighted grades to AP and IB only is discriminatory. Students who choose to take enhanced courses--whatever name,category,or type--should reap the benefits of the rigor these courses require. Curricular offerings vary widely across the state. As a result, limiting weighted grades to AP and IB would be unnecessarily punitive to students who have no access to those specific courses but do have access to dual credit, honors, or other similar classes. | A/0 | This policy does not prevent the weighting of other classes cited, |

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| 02-07 | rewrer | ? | | |
| 02-08 | <p>Cynthia Walters Spanish Teacher ccwalter@access.k12.wv.us Hardy County schools 1952 Pine Ridge Rd Wardensville WV 26851</p> | <p>The weighted grading system serves to distinguish the student who obtains a diploma with a focus on vocational studies and is prepared to enter the work force from the academic student who earns the diploma focusing on academic studies and is prepared to enter college. GRade point averages serve as the criteria for scholarship awards for the college bound student. If weighted grading is removed from the courses such as foreign language and higher level algebra, physics, then the implication is that the level of difficulty is the same as shop class.</p> | NA/- | The revised policy does not prevent the weighting of other advanced courses |
| 02-08 | <p>James Cimino jamesfsh@hotmail.com 1112 Virginia Ave Fairmont WV 26554</p> | <p>I strongly feel that dual college classes must be included on the list of courses for which there is a weighted grade. I have taught French IV at Fairmont Senior in cooperation with French 1102 and 2201 at Fairmont State University since 1995. The rigorous work of completing two syllabi in the school year is a challenge few students are able to do. Those who do certainly deserve the bonus point for this type of class. If the reasoning behind not including dual credit classes is that many schools do not offer this type of course, then the State Dept. of Education should encourage such offerings. To punish those students in schools where dual credit is offered, I feel, is counterproductive to the goals set forth by West Virginia.</p> <p>I strongly urge your including dual courses as part of the weighted grade system.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p> | A/- | Policy revision does not prevent the weighting of other advanced courses by LEA. |

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| 02-08 | James Cimino | <p>Dr. Joe Super Superintendent fsuper@access.k12.wv.us Pleasants County Schools Pleasants County Schools PO BOX St. Marys wv 26241</p> | <p>I am very concerned that the WVDE is taking away local "discretion" in deciding to have or not have weighted grades. The Dept. appears to be excluding Dual Credit from the list of courses that shall be weighted. It is my understanding the cooperating college requires a Masters degree in the field by the teacher in order to teach a Dual Credit course. AP only requires "training". Several students do not take the AP exam, yet it shows on their transcript as an AP course. That can be deceiving in a block schedule when the student takes the AP course 2nd semester and will be accepted by a college before the exam is given. Yes, AP and IB courses are suppose to offer a higher level of rigor, so do Dual Credit courses. If the intent of the proposed change is to provide an incentive to take AP and IB courses, offer the same incentive for Dual Credit courses and don't take the discretion from the local agency to weight or not weight those courses.</p> | <p>AV-</p> | <p>Policy revision does not prevent the weighting of other advanced courses by LEA.</p> |
| 02-08 | Robert W. Minney School Counselor rminney@access.k12.wv.us East Fairmont Junior High School 1 Orion Lane Fairmont WV 26554 | <p>If we are going to use weighted grades, then weight the grades for all college level classes. College Algebra, College Biology, AP English will all give credit in college. If the course does not result in college credit, the grade should not be weighted. An AP class in which the student gets a C and a level 1 or 2 on the exam should not result in 3 credit points on the high school transcript and no college credit. That is doing a disservice to the student with an A in College Algebra who gets college credit, but only 4 points</p> | <p>AV-</p> | <p>Policy revision does not prevent the weighting of other advanced courses by LEA.</p> | |

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| 02-11 | <p>Holly Plunkett Mathematics Teacher Morgantown High School 991 Price Street 26581</p> | <p>on his or her high school transcript.</p> | <p>In order for students to be ranked fairly with their graduating class, the weighting should be phased in. Students who have already taken AP courses without the weighting will be penalized in the class rank compared to those that are now taking these same classes with the extra weighting. Unless each school goes back through transcripts of those students that have already passed AP courses and changes the weighting of the course, those students who took AP courses in their Sophomore and Junior years will be penalized. Monongalia County changed to this policy this year, and after much ado, University High was allowed to phase in the weighting with this year's juniors. Otherwise, a 4.0 student that had already taken 3 or 4 AP classes would end up behind students that had waited until their senior year, was still challenging herself, but had maxed out on the AP classes in which she was interested.</p> | A/- | <p>Policy revision does not prevent LEA from providing for equity within a graduating class.</p> |
| 02-11 | <p>Mary Anne Carpenter Administrator mcarpent@access.k12.wv.us Webster County Schools 315 S. Main Street Webster Springs WV 26288</p> | <p>There is a fundamental mathematical fallacy in the weighted grades model that affects a student's GPA and class ranking. If a student takes fewer credits, they can receive a higher GPA and class ranking than someone who takes more credits (the denominator for GPAs). For example, a student with all regular A's and 1 A in an AP class - 30 Credits $GPA = 4.033$ 32 Credits $GPA = 4.031$ 34 Credits $GPA = 4.029$. Just a slight difference but the student with 30 credits would rank number 1. The same is true for students with</p> | <p>LEAs may need to review their policies related to class ranking, honor graduates, etc. in order to provide for equity.</p> | NA/- | |

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| | <p>all regular A's and 2 A's in AP credit classes. 30 Credits=GPA4.066 32 Credits GPA=4.062 34 Credits GPA=4.058. Students can end up with different numbers of credits for a variety of reasons including taking high school classes in 8th grade, extra classes in high school through Virtual Schools, or other reasons. This problem needs to be addressed either by making the number of credits for figuring the GPA consistent (just count core or requirements) or some other method. Parents and students will figure this out when GPAs and class ranking. Students who complete the additional classes we want them to will rank lower.</p> | |
| <p>02-11</p> | <p>Sharon Hinerman-Hall Business Education Teacher shinerna@access.k12.wv.us John Marshall High School 1300 Wheeling Ave. Glen Dale WV 26038</p> | <p>N</p> <p>Also consider the comparison of a student confined to 28 courses in an eight-period day over four years with a student who has taken 32 courses in a block schedule over four years. Ex. (25 courses * 4.0) + (7 AP courses * 5.0) = 135/32 + 4.21875 (20 courses * 4.0) + (7 AP courses * 5.0) = 119/28 = 4.25 The student with fewer classes ends up with a slightly higher GPA.</p> <p>We add bonus credit (based on the grade earned) to the traditional 4.0 non-weighted scale. This calculation currently makes extra work for guidance counselors or WVEIS coordinators because they have to do manual calculations for AP and Honors students. I'm sure a program could be written for WVEIS to do this. We use the following bonus credit scale:</p> |

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| | | <p>AP Classes Honors Classes A .025 B .015 C .015 D .010 E .010 F .005 G .005 H .000</p> <p>After the GPA is calculated in the traditional way, the bonus credit is added on. For example, a student who has a GPA of 3.5 who has taken two AP classes and has received A's in both of them would have a GPA of 3.55 (3.5 +.025 +.025).</p> | | |
| 02-11 | <p>Karen Canterbury County Test Coordinator and Counselor krcanter@access.k12.wv.us Mingo County Schools Rt. 2, Box 310 Williamson WV 25661</p> | | N | |
| 02-11 | <p>David L. Hall, 945 Echo Valley, Glen Dale, WV, 26038 or by phone 304- 845-9374.</p> | <p>I am a parent and local school board member from Marshall County. I presently have a daughter at John Marshall High School and a son who graduated from that school. I fought this battle in my son's case a number of years ago.</p> <p>You are adopting a policy that is inherently unfair to students. Every high school in this state has a limited number of AP and IB courses to offer their students. Whatever the weighted factor of</p> | NA- | <p>LEAs may need to review their policies related to class ranking, honor graduates, etc. in order to provide for equity. Also, the ACT scores and rigorous coursework play a larger role in scholarship dollars than rank of Number 1 in class. We have had cases where Valedictorians have</p> |

that grade is above 4.0, the greater the number of courses that a student takes in addition to the weighted courses, the lower their grade point average becomes. The GPA will compress back to the 4.0 because the limited quality points earned by weighted classes will be divided by a larger number (THE NUMBER OF COURSES THAT A STUDENT TAKES) thus lowering the grade point average. This encourages your brightest and best students to drop classes to become the number one student in their respective schools. This is not the desired result that you want with this policy.

Do the math! Pick a number of AP and/or IB courses that student A and student B takes in their high school career, let's say 7, and weight them at 5.0. Both students have made all A's in all courses. Student A has 28 credits, accumulated 119 quality points and has a GPA of 4.25. Student B has 32 credits, accumulated 135 quality points and has a GPA of 4.21875. Student A is the number ONE student in that school. If student B continues to take classes above 32 an A in #33 results in a GPA of 4.212121, #34 an A, GPA 4.20588. As you can easily see the more classes the student takes and still makes A's the lower the GPA becomes!!! It is hard to believe that a student taking 28 credits, the same number of AP and IB courses that the student with 34 credits, can make a B in one of the 4.0 classes accumulates 118 quality points has a 4.2142857 GPA which is higher than the

not made impressive ACT scores; these students did not qualify for large scholarships..

student with 34 credits, all A's, GPA 4.2058! 8. ;
This is why it is UNFAIR to students.

This could very easily happen through out the state. Opportunities at various feeder schools lends the possibility of students entering high school with different numbers of high school credits thus setting the table for this to happen. Conflicts in high school schedules cause students to accrue different numbers of graduation credits.

Everyone knows that the number ONE student in every high school is afforded the opportunity to attain more scholarship monies than others in the same class of that school!!

I am a retired educator, 23 years in the science classroom, 9 years as a high school principal, and am finishing my first term on the Marshall County School Board. If I can be of further assistance in this matter please feel free to contact me,

P.S. Also, do not limit individual counties ability to offer more challenging Honors classes, also weighted, with more rigorous content standards to their students. Why should this matter to the State Board of Education? Please share this with fellow board members.

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| 2-24-08 | <p>Jacob Terry Lincoln County High School 824-7220 Gokuthechampion2@wmcconnect.com</p> | <p>Hello my name is Jacob Terry and I am a senior at Lincoln County High School. I am writing to you concerning how AP classes should be weighted on GPAs. I am been denied the opportunity by the Lincoln County Board of Education to speak on this topic. I called and set up an appointment to speak at their board meeting on March 17th at 5:00 and I was informed later that Mr. Huffman had removed me from the agenda and will not allow to me to even make a statement on the subject. I have been denied my right to speak on this topic. This topic has been viewed as unimportant but it is far from unimportant. His argument against why he would not allow to me speak involves that he believes that more kids would have taken AP classes if they were weighted. Does that not answer the point that I am trying to make that AP classes should have been weighted to begin with?</p> <p>AP classes should be weighted because we do way more work than students who do not take AP classes. These classes are college level and therefore prepare students better for college. If the school board really cared about our education they would weight these classes to appeal to more students. By taking these classes, students become better prepared for college and therefore will impact our future in positive ways. I am currently taking 3 AP classes and I took one last year. I know all the hard work that goes</p> | A/+ | <p>Jacob's comment arrived after the comment period, but we felt the student's perspective needed to be heard and that Jacob deserved to have his comments recognized.</p> |
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into these classes and I feel that we should be rewarded and recognized for our work. We work tremendously hard to get a B. I feel we deserve our AP classes to be weighted because some students take easy classes and get the same reward or graduate with a higher GPA than those students who worked their behinds off to receive their grades.

Another situation has occurred. Last year, there was a senior who graduated with over a 4.0 because she came from Cabell Midland where AP classes were weighted while the students at Lincoln County High School could not get above a 4.0 and therefore were at a disadvantage. Huntington High, Cabell Midland, and Hurricane all have AP and even Honors classes weighted then why does our school not have them weighted also? Are we not supposed to be a top school of the 21st century?

if you would like to contact me you can call me at 824-7220 or email me at Gokuthechampion2@wmconnect.com

I would really appreciate it

Thanks,

Jacob Terry