

WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

JOE MANCHIN, III

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #5

Do Not Mark In This Box

FILED

2003 MAY 21 A 11: 02

OFFICE 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 _____ NO X

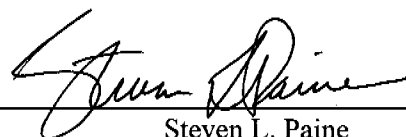
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: _____

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: 37

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: Uniform Grading (2515)

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS July 1, 2003.



Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent of Schools

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**

POLICY 2515 – Uniform Grading

Policy 2515 establishes a uniform grading policy that must be used by all schools in WV for any course for which high school credit is to be awarded.

County boards of education must use the uniform grading policy effective July 1, 2003.

County boards of education have discretionary authority to issue weighted grades for courses for which high school credit is to be awarded in accordance with county policy.

LEGISLATIVE RULE
BOARD OF EDUCATION

2003 MAY 21 A 11: 02

SERIES 37
Uniform Grading (2515)

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

§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. - May 21, 2003.

1.4. Effective Date. - July 1, 2003.

1.5. Repeal of Former Rule. - None. This is a new rule.

§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:

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

126CSR37

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.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades.

4.1. County boards of education have discretionary authority to issue weighted grades for courses for which high school credit is to be awarded in accordance with county policy.

§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 WORKSHEET
(Submit 4 Copies)

HD NO _____ DRAFT NO _____ BILL NO _____ RESOLUTION NO _____

SUBJECT Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System FUND General

SOURCE OF REVENUE: GENERAL FUND SPECIAL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

COST OF ESTIMATE BASED ON: AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BUDGET BILL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

INCOME ESTIMATE BASED ON: AN ORIGINAL ESTIMATE BUDGET BILL OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

SHOW OVER-ALL EFFECT IN ITEMS 1 AND 2 & GIVE EXPLANATION OF BREAKDOWN BY FISCAL YEAR INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL	ANNUAL		FISCAL YEAR		
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
1. ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
PERSONAL SERVICES CURRENT EXPENSES REPAIRS/ALTERATIONS EQUIPMENT OTHER	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2. ESTIMATED TOTAL REVENUES	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

3. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE ESTIMATES (INCLUDING LONG-RANGE EFFECT):

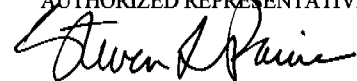
DATE

AGENCY

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

May 20, 2003

West Virginia Department of Education



**POLICY 2515: UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT LOG**

Comment Period Ends April 18, 2003

Action
 N: No Response
 NA: Not Accepted
 A: Accepted

Type
 - Negative
 + Positive
 o Neutral

Date	Individual/Organization	Comments	Action/Type	Rationale
3/24/03	Mike Burke, Director of General Education, Mineral County Schools 1 Baker Place Keyser, WV 26726	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.</p> <p>Provisions in this section will cause a decline in the number of Mineral County Students who enroll as seniors from Mineral county high schools into college classes at Potomac State College of West Virginia University. If the wording "County boards shall issue weighted grades and quality points only for AP and IB courses" is retained, students will not enroll into higher level college classes that may impact their GPA's without the advantage of weighted grades.</p> <p>Mineral County used weighted grades to encourage students to do advanced studies while in high school in an effort to improve college enrollment. Loss of quality points will be seen as endangering "Promise" rewards. If there is concern about the quality of college instruction, Mineral only permits instruction from the college. Any other concern should be addressed without loss of the quality point encouragement.</p>		
3/27/03	Christine Michael Assistant Principal George Washington High School Charleston, WV	<p>Does anyone at the State Department read the research? Why is WV in love with mediocrity?</p> <p>The proposal to not weight honors classes will serve to destroy the honors program in West Virginia. Due to the 3.0 GPA for the Promise Scholarship, students will not risk getting a C in an honors class. Additionally, two students with the same grades, one in an honors class and one in regular education, will rank the same in class standings. This proposal is ridiculous and obviously</p>		

			<p>suggested by people who are not working with high school students.</p> <p>The research tells us that the foremost predictor of success in college is the rigor of the high school classes. This proposal will force the "dumbing down" of our curriculum because students of all levels will be lumped together. Teachers, therefore, will teach to the middle of the class, not challenging the top students and losing the bottom.</p> <p>Please do not put this proposal into effect. It will doom our state to mediocrity!!!</p>		
3/27/03	<p>Elaine Gayton Kanawha County Schools 200 Elizabeth Street Charleston, WV 25311</p>	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.</p> <p>Counties must be allowed to continue to offer weighted grades for honors and dual credit courses! Kanawha County has dozens of honors level courses and thousands of students enrolled in them. These courses will be eliminated if weighted grades are not given. Students who wish to pursue a more rigorous course of studies are being penalized! What incentive will students have to take higher-level courses?</p> <p>PLEASE give counties some flexibility and local control in what is considered for weighted status! Our student populations vary greatly from county to county. Please allow us to do what is best for our own students!</p>			
3/28/03	<p>Ron Duerring, Superintendent Kanawha County Schools 2003 Elizabeth Street Charleston, WV 25311</p> <p>Melanie Vickers Leonard Allen Caroline Cloer</p>	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.</p> <p>Counties must be allowed to continue to offer weighted grades for honors and dual credit courses! Kanawha County has dozens of honors level courses and thousands of students enrolled in them. These courses will be eliminated if weighted grades are not given. Students who wish to pursue a more rigorous course of studies are being penalized! What incentive will students have to</p>			

	<p>Nancy Douglas David Anderson Charles Wilson J. P. Law (?) Denise White Fred Albert Patty Akers Cynthia Phillips Jama Huffman Elizabeth Reggall Kimberly Williams Vivian Maynor Barbara Redman</p>	<p>make higher-level courses?</p> <p>PLEASE give counties some flexibility and local control in what is considered for weighted status! Our student populations vary greatly from county to county. Please allow us to do what is best for our own students!</p>		
<p>3/28/03</p>	<p>Cindy Daniel, Asst. Superintendent Kanawha County Schools 200 Elizabeth Street Charleston, WV 25314</p>	<p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.</p> <p>Does this mean that this year's 9th graders will continue with weighted grades through 12th grade? If so, then you'll have this group in the same class with next year's group and one will be getting weighted credit and one won't. That will never wor!!</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.</p> <p>Counties must be allowed to continue to offer weighted grades for honors and dual credit courses! Kanawha County has dozens of honors level courses and thousands of students enrolled in them. These courses will be eliminated if weighted grades are not given. Students who wish to pursue a more rigorous course of studies are being penalized! What incentive will students have to make higher-level courses?</p> <p>PLEASE give counties some flexibility and local control in what is considered for weighted status! Our student populations vary greatly from county to county. Please allow us to do what is best for our own students!</p>		

		<p>So, an 8th grader taking Geometry, Algebra II, etc. will not get a weighted grade? What incentive will students have to accelerate?</p> <p>§126-37-6. Severability. We are working extremely hard to raise standards for all children; just as in NCLB. This goes against everything we are trying to do!</p>		
3/31/03	<p>Laura Bowles, Counselor Sissonville High School 6100 Sissonville Drive Charleston, WV 25312</p>	<p>§126-37-1. General. The Uniform Grading System is anything but uniform. Very few schools even offer the IB program due to the tremendous expense of training staff and implementing the program. Only one school even offers the IB curriculum in Kanawha County. For the state superintendent to determine whether or not to grant weighted value to AP grades would cause chaos for graduating seniors. Test results do not come to schools that can even offer AP classes until late summer. Therefore, seniors would not have an accurate final GPA for any late scholarship programs or colleges that request them. Honors classes are academically more challenging than regular classes and students taking these classes should receive the extra quality points. Without the weighted grade incentive, very few students would be willing to take honors classes because of the 3.0 GPA requirement overall and in core classes for the Promise Scholarship.</p> <p>§126-37-2. Purpose. There seems to be an all-out effort to have consistent grading policies in West Virginia. To ignore honors and dual credit classes for weighted credit, yet put emphasis on AP and IB classes, totally destroys this effort. Smaller counties and smaller schools do not have the staff nor do they have the funding to offer AP or IB classes. Only if the state funded AP and IB classes including the tremendous expense of testing every student in all high schools, this new policy does not have any sense of equality. Would it not be more equal to give weighted value to all Honors classes in all counties.</p> <p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. Why lower the</p>		

		grading standards and not recognize honors classes for weighted grades? This grading scale will not encourage students to take honors classes, which they desperately need to succeed to college.	
		<p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade in or Before the School Year 2002-2003. It would be unfair to change a grading scale when students have been earning grades under another system. Because of the Promise Scholarship many, many students are very aware of the grading scales and GPA's as are their parents. I suspect the parents would challenge this change in the middle of their children's high school years and would even go to court to stop this policy. The grading scale alone, without the weighted grade policy would work out okay with minimum confusion.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. This would be very confusing in classes that include grades 9-12 (PE, Health, various math classes). How could a school operate with a variety of students on different scales?</p>	
4/1/03	C. Strader – AP East Bank Middle School PO Box 897 East Bank, WV 25067	<p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. This scale is <u>not</u> fair to those students taking college level courses.</p> <p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade in or Before the School Year 2002-2003. We are going to lose/penalize students because of this proposal.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Weighted grades – students taking college or dual credit work just as hard as students taking honors classes. These grades <u>should</u> be weighted. You are penalizing those who want to have college credit.</p>	
4/3/03	Lori Helmick St. Marys High School 121 Franklin Lane	§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. 1. Non-weighted: Passing 70% or higher. Don't jeopardize the integrity of our system. 2. If counties aren't required to adopt this, how is that	

	Sistersville, WV 26175	<p>uniform. 3. You weighted scale is ridiculous. It <u>must</u> be on a 4.0 scale.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. What about 8th graders taking HS honors courses? 2. Scale should be a 4.0 with a concordance tied to original scale.</p> <p>Please see previous comments from Nov – Mar for clarification on above issues. I served on the state's committee last fall and I have been appalled at how this situation has been handled. The first meet was very logical and the results from that session were valuable. <u>EVERYTHING</u> that I have seen/heard since has been a far cry from where we were initially. I do <u>not</u> wish to have my name in any way associated with this policy because I do <u>not</u> support it and have <u>NO</u> idea where this representation of ideas came from??!!</p>	
4/3/03	George H. Moore Teacher Rt. 5 Box 3 Clarksburg, WV 26301	<p>§126-37-2. Purpose. Is it possible to consider as a purpose having school report these grades in a numerical fashion? It is difficult to explain to students and parents why a 92.4% grade is considered the same as a 84.5% grade when reporting to parents and to colleges. Additionally, requiring numerical grading systems would encourage students to work for an entire semester, rather than simply working until they are guaranteed a passing grade for the semester and then doing nothing for the remainder of the semester. In my county, a student can receive grades of C and D for the first two grading periods (6 weeks) of the semester, and then do absolutely nothing for the last grading period and sign their name to the semester examination, but still pass the course because averaging quality points rather than percentage grades has already guaranteed a passing grade in the course.</p>	
4/4/03	Christine Michael 17 Tyree Circle Elkview, WV 25071	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. We must allow honors classes to be weighted to encourage students to elect rigorous courses. A strong curricular foundation is the number one predictor of success in college. Students needing the</p>	

		<p>Promise Scholarship for college will not risk getting a C in an honors class if it is not weighted. The differential system will not prevent a regular education student from reaching his goal of the Promise Scholarship, for the only objective measure we have is the ACT score of 21.</p>		
4/4/03	<p>Tracey Hall 2035 Scraggs Drive Charleston, WV 25312</p>	<p>§126-37-1. General. I am happy that a set standard is finally being established for the students of WV. As a teacher, I know that the differences in grading scales really plagues the students. They complain all the time that at SO & SO High School, a 93 is an 'A' but at my high school it is a 'B' and that is unfair to my GPA. In the first county that employed me, grades were recorded at percentages; they didn't use the 4.0 scale. This caused the counselors to have to do a lot of conversion when records were sent to colleges. I would hope that a uniform scale statewide would eliminate these problems.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. HERE is where I have the problem with the policy. To have a teacher certified to teach either the IB or the AP curriculum requires money. The teacher pays (either personally or through the county) to take that training. The courses require testing that also require money from the students. Making only the IB or AP courses the only weighted grades places those schools/counties/students that do not have the resources for such things at a huge disadvantage. Perhaps the state school board could establish some curriculum objectives for classes that could be recognized as "HONORS LEVEL" courses. These courses could be taught by any certified teacher, so the financial burden on the schools would be minimal.</p>		
4/7/03	<p>Johanna V. Halstead 1132 Strawberry Road St. Albans, WV 25177</p>	<p>§126-37-1. General. I believe that we do need this Uniform Grading Policy. Most colleges and universities do not recognize weighted grades. If a student is truly interested in their education they will do their best. This grading scale is more in line with the colleges and university also.</p>		
4/9/03	<p>Frank Aliveto Deputy Superintendent</p>	<p>§126-37-2. Purpose. Berkeley Co. Schools fully support the uniform grading scale. Berkeley Co. Schools oppose the</p>		

	Berkeley County Schools 401 So. Queen Street Martinsburg, WV 25401	weighting of courses, however, if courses must be weighted we feel the current proposal, limiting weighting of classes to AP and IB classes <u>only</u> is acceptable.		
4/9/03	Erica Sladky 9 th Grade George Washington H. S. Charleston, WV	If you make honors classes non weighted, then most kids will not see the point in striving so hard to barely pass in an honors class, when they could make an a in a regular class. THIS IS STUPID! I would hate it so much if you took this privilege away from me because it makes me work harder in school.		
4/10/03	Richard L. Boehmas Keyser High School One Tornado Way Keyser, WV 26726	5.2. In addition to AP and IB courses, some students take dual credit college classes through local WV colleges. These classes give students a head start on college work and should be encouraged. Therefore, "college classes" taught by "college faculty" should also be weighted. 5.4. Is stupid and should be thrown out. We need to encourage students to take more difficult classes. Not punishing them for doing so.		
4/10/03	Joe Farris Charleston, WV	Please do not eliminate the Policy where Honors Classes are weighted. What incentive would students have to take these classes? Yes, there would be a few who take them for the joy of learning, but in high school a major incentive is the fact that they are weighted. If we remove this incentive less students will more than likely take them. I think we need to challenge and stimulate our students (I have children ages 12, 11 and 15) and challenging classes are the best way to do this and to get them to think. Also, in WV, with the Promise Scholarship and others, many students won't risk a lower grade because very real financial considerations. I know that I look back on the honors classes I took in High School, and I still can see how some of them enhanced my life (although I may not have fully appreciated it at the time.) I don't know what arguments are being put forth in favor of this policy. Perhaps one reason is that classes vary between schools. But I would argue that this is going to be the case whether classes are honors or not. When comparing schools, and grades between schools, we are always going to be comparing "apples to oranges" to an extent.		
4/10/03	Anne H. Sladky, Mother	This is in response to an announcement my daughter brought home from school yesterday. It concerns the honors classes at George		

	1829 Devondale Circle Charleston, WV 25314	from school yesterday. It concerns the honors classes at George Washington High School (GW) in Charleston, WV. A new policy proposes to do away with weighted classes for these intelligent and motivated students...please do not allow this to happen! These classes prepare and encourage for greatness in the future and puts GW ahead of other school academically. Do the right thing and keep it the way it is!	
4/10/03	David A. Sade 1003 Circle Road Charleston, WV 25314	<p>I am "writing" to urge you to reject section 126-37-5 of the proposed "Uniform Grading System" Rule (2515)by which only AP and IB courses would receive weighted grades and quality points. The result of this policy would be to remove honors courses from the list of courses eligible to receive such treatment.</p> <p>I have a son, Gregory Cloonan, in ninth grade at George Washington High School in Charleston who is currently enrolled in several honors courses. While I understand that the proposed rule, if enacted, will only affect students entering 9th grade in or after the 2003-04 school year, the proposed change concerns me nonetheless. Chief among these concerns is the fact that I expect that my other child, currently a fourth grader, also will be able to take advantage of GW's honors courses when he reaches 9th grade.</p> <p>Since the proposed rule states as its only purpose the establishment of a uniform grading system for all high schools, I cannot be sure of the specific reason for the proposed change regarding the treatment of honors course grades.</p> <p>Regardless of the motivation behind the rule, I am relatively certain of its impact, which undoubtedly will be to discourage students from taking such courses. While I recognize and applaud the notion that academic excellence should be its own reward, there are practical implications that simply cannot be ignored. Students who need to receive academic scholarships, including, most importantly, the Promise Scholarship, will no doubt be disinclined to risk a lower grade in an honors course if the impact of their decision to risk a more academically rigorous course is to put the likelihood of financial assistance in jeopardy. We (parents,</p>	

		<p>teachers, and administrators) should be doing all we can to motivate our children to succeed academically in high school, given the well-established and direct correlation between the rigor of a high school curriculum and success in college.</p> <p>I believe that the proposed rule is fatally flawed and I urge you to reject it.</p>		
4/10/03	<p>Daniel Muehlman George Washington H. S. Charleston, WV</p>	<p>Please, if you have ever attended an honors class as opposed to a regular (Y) class, you would definitely NOT want to do away with them. This e-mail is in response to the proposed state policy currently under discussion.</p> <p>Don't give Honors Classes away. That peer group, top quality effort is what keeps us sane. Are you dumbing us down? That's no fair, you know?</p> <p>Please don't let this pass.</p>		
4/10/03	<p>Bradley A. Crouser 1147n Emerald Road Charleston, WV 25314</p>	<p>This is to strongly urge the rejection of proposed Policy 2515 of Sec. 126-37-5.</p> <p>Honors classes should continue to be weighted.</p> <p>I have two children currently taking honors classes, getting A's in them. But I can assure you that if they were not weighted, they would have taken easier courses, to maintain their grade averages. But I'm glad they have incentive to take them, because those honor classes are preparing them for college and careers. It's similar to offering a bonus to get more work from an employee; there must be some reward.</p> <p>To change this policy as currently proposed will go a long way in "dumbing down" our education system in West Virginia. It will be very harmful and in opposition to stated goals of our system. It is opposed to all educational research which affirms that the foremost predictor of success in college is the rigor of the high school curriculum.</p>		

4/10/03	<p>Katie Power 9th Grade George Washington H. S. 1511 Bedford Road Charleston, WV 25314</p>	<p>Please do not allow that to happen.</p> <p>§126-37-5. <u>Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I think the policy of not providing weighted grades for students who work so much harder in honors classes is very unfair. I see no advantage in taking this reward away from students who put all of their effort into taking these classes and doing their best in them. Passing this policy will most likely result in several honors classes not being filled and students not pushing themselves to their maximum level of academic success. Having this policy would discourage students from taking honors classes since students would complete twice the amount of work for the same grade students could receive in a much easier regular class. If this policy is passed, I believe the state will see a lack of motivation in students and much lower grades. It would truly be a shame if this proposed policy is finalized.</u></p>		
4/11/03	<p>Janet R. Masters 101 Abney Circle Charleston, WV 25314</p>	<p>§126-37-3. <u>Grading Scale and Quality Points. I applaud the Board's change to provide uniformity in the grading scale for all state schools. It may need to go further to bring West Virginia in line with other states. This change provides needed uniformity without changes in other provisions which affect currently offered honors classes.</u></p> <p>§126-37-5. <u>Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I strongly object to the change in the provision starting in the school year 2003 - 2004. My child will be a ninth grade student at George Washing High School in Kanawha County next fall. At present he is scheduled to take all honors courses offered him. Due to the challenging nature of these courses, I feel the courses should be weighted to reflect their difficulty. Without this, students will have little incentive to take the more challenging honors courses. This change could dramatically affect the character of George Washington High School, which should be emulated due to its</u></p>		

		<p>success, not changed to weaken its current appeal. While I understand the need for uniformity, I feel <u>this</u> change would be detrimental to the students taking honors courses, and schools which offer them.</p>	
4/11/03	Stephanie Smoot George Washington H. S.	<p>I am writing as the concerned parent of two students at George Washington High School. Both of my children are taking honors classes, and doing well in them. They are taking these classes for the challenges they represent, and as a way to prepare for college. Part of the 'pay off' for taking these classes, as they see it, is the fact that their grades in them are weighted. It is the compensation for taking a class which is much more difficult than the standard courses offered at the school.</p> <p>It is not easy for me to understand why you are considering adopting a policy which would remove a large part of the motivation for students to excel in school. This is what I fear will happen if only grades from AP and IB classes are allowed to be weighted. It is as though you wish to punish those who have already demonstrated their willingness to work harder, and to take on greater challenges than their peers.</p> <p>I urge you reject this part of Policy 2515.</p>	
4/11/03	Elizabeth E. Abraham 1632 Greystone Rd. Charleston, WV 25314	<p>I wish to strongly protest the approval of WVDE Policy 2515, particularly section 126-37-5. The elimination of weighted grades for honors courses in high schools across the state will eliminate much of the motivation for students to choose more challenging honors courses over regular classes.</p> <p>The student will ask why he or she should take a more difficult class and risk getting a lower grade when an easier course would fulfill the graduation requirement and provide the same reward (grade). This is a setback for all educators and parents who urge their students to enroll in more challenging classes, and will be detrimental to the quest for a higher quality education system in West Virginia. Please do not place this policy in effect.</p>	
4/11/03	Cary Kyle	§126-37-5. 2 – AP, IB and Concurrent Credit College Courses	

	Keyser High School One Tornado Way Keyser, WV 26726	should be weighted. 5.4; 5.4.1; 5.4.2 – Throw these out the window. Scores do not come in until summer. If a student got a D in the course (she wanted to challenge herself) and a “2” on the AP – we put her in double jeopardy by not weighting the grade? Surely an accredited college course is worthy of a weighted grade?	
4/11/03	JodyHM@aol.com	<p>I have a great concern about the continued dummying down of our students as the State School Board makes changes to its policies.</p> <p>First, you lowered the grading scale. Why didn't you raise it and make all schools accountable for excellence?</p> <p>Now, Policy No. 2515 directly "lowers the bar" of success across the state of WV. Some counties in WV cannot afford to or don't have enough teachers to teach honors courses. Instead of <u>helping</u> those counties, the State Department of Education feels that weighted grades should be eliminated to "level the playing field." It is a backward way, indeed, to fix the problem.</p> <p>The State of West Virginia has enough problems with its educational system. Why would you intentionally harm those students with the possibilities of educational achievement -- those students who can better their state if they are given the tools to do so? Instead, you dummy down the educational system, so "no child will be left behind." Now, no child will get ahead.</p> <p>Mass education for the masses is not the answer. Please reconsider affecting advanced classes for not only the high schools, but the middle schools, as well.</p>	
4/11/03	Monica Hatfield Parent George Washington H. S. Charleston, WV	<p>I am very upset with this new change in law. Children who are motivated to take Honor's classes should be rewarded. If there is a problem with some schools not meeting standards for "Honors" classes, then this should be rectified school by school rather than punishing the whole state.</p> <p>Both my daughter's have attended George Washington High School and have been very challenged in the Honors courses. One</p>	

		<p>of them is not very self-motivated. She would not have taken Honors classes if there had not been a grade differential. Because of the challenging classes, she is doing well her freshman year at University of Maryland.</p> <p>I've always understood that the Honors courses were initiated in the first place to keep a student who has a very easy schedule from becoming a valedictorian of a graduating class. How will this issue be addressed? What about the rural schools who will not have access to AP and IB courses as does GW or South Charleston. What about students who excel in the classroom but are not good test takers?</p> <p>I very humbly ask you to reconsider this new law and the consequences for students who are not the upper echelon of the IQ but who are very smart and motivated.</p>		
4/11/03	Debbie Stevens 1538 Bridge Road Charleston, WV 25314	<p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.</p> <p>This proposal will serve to discourage our more inquisitive students from taking the more challenging classes. The classes are more challenging and should therefore be graded on a different level from other classes. The fear of pulling down their GPA and it's effect on college placement will be a deterrent for students.</p>		
4/11/03	Melody A. Simpson 21 Carriage Road Charleston, WV 25314	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.</p> <p>Please do <u>not</u> do this! Why discourage students from taking the more challenging honors courses by removing any incentive they might have to take them? If a student will receive the same quality points for an Honors English class as they will for a regular English class, why on earth would a student wish to subject him/herself to the more rigorous class for no benefit? While we can hope some students would take them anyway to challenge themselves, we must accept that students must look at their college prospects and how their grades will look on their college</p>		

		<p>applications. It's easier to get an A in a regular class than in an Honors class, and most students will therefore opt for the regular class. The result? Our students will be <u>less</u> well-prepared for college because they've taken easier courses!</p> <p>My understanding is that at least one reason behind this proposed change is to "level the playing field" with respect to the Promise scholarships, so students taking the weighted classes do not have an advantage over students for whom weighted grades are not an option. But why level the playing field by <u>lowering the standards</u>? You would be better off to require all schools to weight the grades of honors classes, or to require all schools to offer weighted honors level classes to their students (not that I am necessarily suggesting this, but it would send a better message). With all this "no child left behind" legislation coming from the federal government, this just strikes me as going completely the wrong direction for West Virginia.</p> <p>Please, allow honors classes to receive weighted grades, so students will have an incentive to challenge themselves and take them! This will better help prepare our students for college, which is the goal we all share for our students.</p>		
4/12/03	Ms. Thompson Parent of Capital High School freshman	<p>My child is a freshman at Capital High School where he is enrolled in Honor courses. He has wonderful teachers! Although the work is challenging and far above what is expected in regular classes he has excelled! I believe one of the reasons he has excelled is the atmosphere in the classroom! In general the student's who take these course's want to learn!! But also be rewarded with weighted grades for their effort!! He has enrolled in Honor classes for next year but will drop these courses if this proposed policy goes thru!! We need to do what's best for the children and not penalize them for wanting to learn and excel at their own level! By not offering this incentive the children are left behind, because most children will drop these courses! As a parent I want to do what's best for my child and motivate and challenge him to learn all he can but also reward him for doing so!</p>		

4/13/03	Denis and Diana Reeser Parents 1841 Devondale Circle Charleston, WV 25314	<p>As parents of two young adults who either have taken or are currently taking honors classes in high school, we do not support the proposal to reduce weighted grades currently received in honor's classes to non-weighted grades.</p> <p>We believe only giving non-weighted credit to honors class grades will deter students considering these type classes. Better students wish to accept the challenge of honor classes, but are very aware that lower grades have the potential to prevent them from attending their college of choice. Weighting honor class grades significantly reduces this concern for students and is supportive of the main goals in student education: fostering an environment in which students can reach their maximum potential and preparing students to compete in the world after graduation.</p> <p>Your support to reject this proposal and allow schools to continue their policy of weighting grades for honor classes is requested.</p> <p>I oppose to the policy no.2515.If this policy passes my daughter may not academically challenge herself in AP classes, because she may fail to receive the Promise Scholarship.</p>
4/13/03	Anita Vance	<p>I am a psychologist and mother of four of which two have been in the KCS gifted programs.</p> <p>I was deeply upset to hear that you are considering not weighting Honor Classes. I want to say that this will not lead to the outcome that we want which is to motivate our students to their best efforts.</p> <p>Honor students might not be motivated to risk a lower grade in a difficult class which is unweighted, for a low grade would drop their GPA and threaten their chances for a Promise Scholarship.</p> <p>My vote is to reject this part of Policy 2515 (section 126-37-5.</p> <p>Thank you for listening and changing this policy.</p> <p>I am a student at George Washington High School in Charleston,</p>
4/13/03	Linda S. Geronilla, Ph. D. Psychologist Mother of Four	<p>I am a student at George Washington High School in Charleston,</p>

	<p>Freshman, George Washington H. S. Charleston, WV</p>	<p>WV. I am concerned with this whole issue about taking away weighted grades. Although the policy will not affect me, it would affect my younger sister who is a sixth grader at John Adams Middle School.</p> <p>I have a few concerns. If a person wouldn't get weighted grades in an honors class, I believe he or she would not be motivated to take a class that he or she would have to work harder in. He or she would just take "the easy way out" because they would be receiving the same amount of credit as they would receive in a regular class.</p> <p>If a student applied to a college, and that college looked at weighted GPA instead of unweighted, the students with the weighted GPA would have a better chance of getting accepted. This wouldn't be fair for a WV student who may be smarter, but didn't get accepted because he or she had a lower GPA.</p> <p>I can think of one advantage to this policy. Since AP and IB classes would still be weighted, students may take honors classes so they can be in an AP or IB class. Getting a weighted grade in this class would be a reward for working harder in the honors class(es).</p> <p>I hope my letter has influenced you choice in some way. Thank you for your time.</p>		
4/14/03	<p>Jeff Moore 3 Hermitage Road Charleston, WV</p>	<p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. The scale should be 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, 59 and below F. This is a much more flexible scale and will reward the students efforts more fairly on a greater variety of tests commonly used. All scales are relative but making good grades more difficult to obtain only discourages students while those who do obtain them are not nationally recognized for efforts. I hope the fear of overburdening the promise scholarship fund is not a factor. We should be helping our children get good grades not making it more difficult.</p>		
4/14/03	<p>Dana Humphreys</p>	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students</p>		

	Herbert Hoover High School 3220 Thorofare Road Clendenin, WV 25045	Entering 9 th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Either all current honors level courses should be weighted, or NONE (including AP and IB).	
4/14/03	James Barber Parent George Washington H. S.	<p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to eliminate "weighting" of honors classes. The current system allows students who challenge themselves by taking honors courses to be rewarded by their success, and not be penalized if the bite off more than they can chew. By eliminating the weighting of honors courses, students will be less likely to take the challenge of the honors course for fear that a lower grade will drop the GPA and threaten their eligibility for scholarships, such as the Promise.</p> <p>I urge you to reject the proposed change and keep honors courses weighted. I am the parent of 5 daughters, the eldest of who is to graduate with honors from GW this spring.</p>	
4/15/03	Mark Carl Fawcett Guidance Office Magnolia HS 601 Maple Ave. New Martinsville, WV 26155	<p>§126-37-1. General. I have been a school counselor in WV public high schools for the past 27 years. I am speaking against mandatory weighted grades for AP and IB courses in WV high schools. Wetzel County schools used weighted grades from the period of 1990 to 1998 and we abandoned them at time because of the following problems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students were manipulating their schedules and transcripts in order to minimize the number of non-weighted classes they would take to increase the effect on cumulative GPA of the weighted classes. Sometimes, they would drop a class in which they were making an A because it was not weighted. 2. Students that were from families with more money took more AP classes in order to increase their GPA. Even though they were required to take the AP course exam in order to receive the weighted grade, since the AP exam scores do not come back to the school until the end of June (well after graduation), they would not take the tests seriously and therefore scored poorly. They still however got the weighted grade on their transcript. 	

	<p>3. Most scholarship competitions, including the National Merit, and most colleges require student cumulative GPA to be reported as non-weighted. This would require a separate hand calculation for students that took weighted grade classes. This is true of the Promise Scholarship and the WV Higher Ed Grant now.</p> <p>§126-37-2. Purpose. A uniform grading policy is needed for WV high schools, but it should be the non-weighted cumulative GPA, based on a 4.0 scale, that is universally understood by schools, colleges, and scholarship agencies worldwide. If some counties also wish to generate a weighted grade scale, then they should have the option of doing that with their own resources.</p> <p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. Section 3.1 specifically states: "or other courses that county boards of education choose pursuant to Section 4."</p> <p>This tells me that a local board could decide to give weighted grades to any course that it desires. That would allow them to give their students an advantage over other counties. This statement removes the uniformity of the policy and places that discretion with the local board.</p> <p>I believe that to be statistically correct, the intervals for A, B, C, and D should be equal in size. As they are stated here, the intervals are: A(8), B(6), C(10), and D(10). I see no reason for that disparity.</p> <p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003. I agree with this section of the policy.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I agree that the policy should go into effect with students entering the 9th grade in 2003-2004 school year.</p>		
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		<p>The statement that county boards shall issue weighted grades "only" for AP or IB courses contradicts section 3.1 of the very same policy.</p> <p>Section 5.4 .</p> <p>AP course grades are not reported to the schools until the end of June. The 2002 AP Test report for Magnolia HS was dated 6/29/02. We probably received it in the mail in July. How are you going to determine the cumulative GPA for students that took the AP test in May and graduated in May when the scores do not come back until July?</p> <p>GPA for the Promise Scholarship and WV Higher Ed grant must be reported in March before graduation. That is just about universally true for college admission, placement in special programs, and most other scholarships. You cannot wait until July to determine if a student scored a 4 or 5 on the AP exam and therefore should get a weighted grade for that class.</p> <p>I believe that mandating the use of weighted grades for any classes in WV high school would be a mistake. It will only increase the emphasis on grades and cumulative GPA when what is important is increasing learning. West Virginia has enough problems with course titles that are confusing or downright incomprehensible to out of state colleges and employers without adding more confusion by weighting certain classes and abandoning the well understood 4.0 scale.</p>		
4/15/03	Brad Crouser 1147 Emerald Road Charleston, WV 25314	<p>This is to strongly urge the rejection of proposed Policy 2515 of Sec. 126-37-5.</p> <p>Honors classes should continue to be weighted.</p> <p>I have two children currently taking honors classes, getting A's in them. But I can assure you that if they were not weighted, they</p>		

		<p>would have taken easier courses, to maintain their grade averages. But I'm glad they have incentive to take them, because those honor classes are preparing them for college and careers. It's similar to offering a bonus to get more work from an employee; there must be some reward.</p> <p>To change this policy as currently proposed will go a long way in "dumbing down" our education system in West Virginia. It will be very harmful and in opposition to stated goals of our system. It is opposed to all educational research which affirms that the foremost predictor of success in college is the rigor of the high school curriculum.</p>		
4/15/03	Teresa L. Underhill 17 Foxchase Road Charleston, WV 25304	<p>Please do not allow that to happen.</p> <p>I was stunned to learn that the West Virginia Board of Education is considering eliminating the use of weighted grades for honors courses. My son is currently a senior at Capital High School. During his high school years, he has taken advantage of every opportunity to enroll in honors and Advanced Placement classes. When he graduates in May, he will have taken a total of 24 honors and Advanced Placement courses. These classes have challenged him and helped him to prepare for his next step in the education process.</p> <p>My son has always set high standards and goals for himself. As part of the college application process, he applied to several top schools because he believed that he was well prepared to become a contributing member of their student body. He was accepted at Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, Vanderbilt University, Lehigh University, the United States Naval Academy and the honors program at West Virginia University. In addition, he was invited to take part in a seven year BS to MD program at Drexel University. Many of these schools are considered to be among the top 40 universities in the United States. Without an opportunity to earn a weighted grade point average of 4.63, I do not believe that my son would have been considered as a suitable</p>		

		<p>candidate by these institutions.</p> <p>It would be a disservice to all of our state's students to discontinue weighted grade point averages for honors classes. I have observed that there are higher expectations in all aspects for students taking honors classes. In addition, it would be a disincentive for students to enroll in an honors class, which requires more challenging studies, to not be recognized with a weighted grade.</p> <p>The West Virginia Board of Education should reconsider this proposed policy. I doubt that a majority of high school administrators, teachers and current honor students support this proposed policy change. Our state's future depends upon providing the best education possible to its students. Our students should be encouraged to take honors and Advanced Placement courses that challenge them and then reward them with weighted grades by recognizing their willingness to take that extra step. When these students graduate from high school and enroll in college or become part of the work force, they will be expected to be willing to take on new challenges and work hard to achieve their goals.</p> <p>I currently have a son who is a freshman at Capital High School and a daughter who is completing elementary school. I believe that it is important for them to have the same opportunities. Without weighted grades for honors classes, the West Virginia Board of Education is taking a giant step backwards in education.</p> <p>I would be happy to discuss this issue with you at your convenience.</p>		
4/15/03	Kathleen Steber Ohio County Schools 2203 National Road Wheeling, WV 26003	<p>§126-37-1. General.</p> <p>1.1 – We believe that a uniform grading policy will reduce the high standards to which our parents and students have become accustomed. We want to continue to set high expectations for our students, giving them no chance to be mediocre when they can achieve much more.</p>		

§126-37-2. Purpose.

2.1 - We believe that this policy inhibits the local control that is essential to meeting the needs of each region. Our community supports our commitment to high standards as shown by the passage of many consecutive levies and bond issues. Many families in our area actively seek schools that boast high achievement and rigorous standards. Our current high standards contribute to maintaining student enrollment levels which is imperative because we are in competition with three private/parochial high schools in our county alone, and faced with more and more parents who would home school children if the schools were not as academically rigorous as they are now.

§126-37-3. Grading Scale.

3.1 and 3.2 – Schools should be permitted to use a higher grading scale if it meets the needs of their clients. If a uniform grading scale throughout the state is imperative, then the scale should be:

- 94-100 A
- 87-93 B
- 78-86 C
- 70-77 D
- 0-69 F

Do we really want 65% to be a passing grade?

§126-37-5 Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003 -2004.

5.1 – By using only a 4.0 grading scale, we will reduce the competition for our many local scholarships. The honor of becoming class valedictorian will be decreased.

5.2 - We support the use of weighted grades for AP and IB courses. We support weighted grades for honors courses as well, because there is no incentive to take more difficult courses if weighting cannot be used to determine a student's grade.

5.4 - The test results will be supplied too late to be used in grade calculations.

4/15/03	Ann O. Kinsolving 5010 Washington Street W Charleston, WV 25313 On behalf of students at Capital High School, Kanawha County Schools	<p>§126-37-1. General. I agree that there must be a <u>uniform grading scale for all courses used in calculating grade point averages for high school graduation. There must be uniformity between counties!</u></p> <p>§126-37-2. Purpose. The same grading scale should be a requirement for all WV public schools!</p> <p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. Adopt a grading scale. If colleges in WV use 90-100 schools should do this as well. Levels 3-12.</p> <p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003. So, the last weighted grades and quality points as we now know it is 2007. Beginning 2003-2004 – regular Honors Students are left out of weighted grade opportunities. <u>This is unacceptable!</u> Why are you totally disregarding the quality and quantity of work required for honors classes? General course work is offered for students who cannot cope with the rigors of honors. Honors students are better prepared for higher education. Honors classes deserve the same quality points as those available to AP and IBS students.</p> <p>§126-37-6. Severability. Students should not have to pay to take national tests for weighted credit. Does this imply that a student who fails this course, receives regular high school credit, or no credit?</p>
4/15/03	Victor Gaglio 510 Linden Road Charleston, WV 25314	<p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. How does this compare with other states or private schools? I moved from PA in 1997. Grade scale there was a 10 pt system: A 90-100, B 80-90, C 70-80, D 60-70. When WV kids compete on GPA with kids from other states, is it a level playing field?</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I oppose this section as it is currently written. What about schools</p>

		<p>that have established honors classes? Honors classes should qualify for weighted grades just like AP & IB classes do. The rigors of honors classes prepares our students for higher education. Disincentives associated with omitting honors classes from this section will result in our students being less prepared for the next level of their education.</p>		
4/15/03	<p>Gayle H. Gaglio 510 Linden Road Charleston, WV 25314</p>	<p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. Colleges use a 10 point scale, as do many states.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I am opposed to this section. My child's school has honor classes which are now weighted. These should remain weighted since they are more difficult and require more work and effort than the standard class.</p>		
4/16/03	<p>Arlene Woods Co-Chairman LSIC John Adams Middle School Kanawha County 7 Shamblin Place Charleston, WV 25314</p>	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. The elimination of weighted grades and quality points is tantamount to the extinction of honors courses. Participation in a course that requires greater depth and intensity without incentive is both foolish and potentially risky to a student's GPA. I believe this policy is a move to eliminate honors courses in order to integrate high and low achievers.</p> <p>This change in policy appears to be a move to eliminate academic tracking on the high school level. Apparently the WV Department of Education must believe that allowing the brightest students to participate in more challenging courses is somehow unfair to those students with lesser abilities. However, it would seem reasonable to believe that students learn better when curriculum is geared to individual abilities. I am not convinced that real proof exists of substantial gain by lower achieving students by exposure to these displaced higher achievers into the heterogeneous mixed classes. I believe that eliminating the weighted benefit of high school honors classes will ultimately hurt the high performing students. They will require extra work to keep from being bored. I don't believe it</p>		

		<p>is ethical to deprive the higher achievers of a more challenging curriculum. This is in essence what this policy proposes.</p> <p>Weighting honors courses is analogous to offering extra credit in a regular class and giving bonus points for the extra work. Would it not be better to focus on consistency in subject matter taught in the same course county to county. A 4.0 in one county should be the same in all counties and should reflect the same body of knowledge mastered. However, a 5.0 course should neither be "dumbed down" in content nor should it be lessened in value.</p>	
4/16/03	<p>Sue results will be supplied to late to be used in grade calculations. AP Instructor Webster County H. S. 1 Highlander Drive Upperglade, WV 26266</p>	<p>§126-37-2. Purpose. Motivation issue – if this is being done primarily to get PROMISE issues, this will not effectively be a truly uniform school system of grading. Areas in which wide leeway will continue fall into writing, project performance and individual teachers assessments of them.</p> <p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. This lowers expectations for students who might already tend to mediocrity while making no change for the majority of above average students (A/B), since honor and other difficult classes remain exempt under the AP and IB weighted scale.</p> <p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003. Since students cannot take these courses until the junior year, this is too long of a wait. Weighing grades and grandfathering juniors would be more appropriate as it will continue to encourage students to enroll in advance placement courses. Therefore if they adopt weighting should begin as soon as a student elects to enroll in a class that qualifies.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. See Above</p> <p>5.4. Students in grade 12 who take the AP test in May of their</p>	

4/16/03	<p>Robert Fliess 402 Pineview Drive West Liberty, WV 26074</p>	<p>senior year are <u>not</u> notified of their scores until late July; therefore, computations would not occur until after PROMISE awards and graduation. This is not practical.</p> <p>First, let me introduce myself and then get to the points I wish to address.</p> <p>I have been a resident of Ohio County for 15 years. Before moving to West Virginia, I was a high school mathematics teacher (I hold P.A. permanent certification) and college instructor in the Pittsburgh area; since 1988 I have been a professor of Mathematics (also teaching education courses and supervising Mathematics student teachers) at WLSU; one daughter is in ninth grade at Wheeling Park, and the other daughter is in sixth grade at Warwood School.</p> <p>For the past few months I have heard rumors that the Ohio County Schools were thinking of eliminating weighted grades for honor's courses. Today I discovered that this was a state initiative. Since you have heard the arguments, I will not present them. But, as a parent, professional educator, and citizen of West Virginia I want you to know that I sincerely hope that this initiative does NOT become a new "rule". I hope that when this change in policy is officially discussed, that you will inform the Board that there is at least one citizen that is against this.</p> <p>Since I have your attention there are two other (related) matters that I wish to discuss. The WVBOE has decided to stop giving the CATS every year and to go to yearly testing using a test more suited for, and designed by, West Virginians. I feel this is a mistake. It is bad enough that yearly tests of this nature are given, but now there will be little weight outside of West Virginia for the individual students. At least a student could say, and use for college admission, that he/she scored in the nth percentile on the California Achievement Test. Now a student can say that he/she scored in the nth percentile on the WV Achievement Test. This will have very little meaning to colleges outside of West Virginia.</p>		
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4/17/03	Kathy Barnett	<p>I am writing to protest the changes in the honors classes and weighted grades. My oldest son will be a senior next fall. He is an unmedicated, very disciplined student with ADD who struggles for hours each evening to complete his homework in honors, weighted classes. Without the weighting, why struggle so hard to achieve? Without the weighted grades, he would not have worked so hard to take honors classes because normal scale grading might endanger receiving a Promise scholarship. Without Promise, neither of my boys will be able to afford college. My youngest son will be a 9th grade high school student next fall. He is already scheduled for honors English and History. If this change takes place, I will immediately cancel that schedule to move him into regular classes. He's very bright, scored high enough in early 8th grade on an SAT to qualify for programs of the Johns Hopkins Talented Youth program. He NEEDS advanced classes. But without the weighted grades, his GPA may suffer and again, put Promise at risk. Please reconsider.</p>		
4/17/03	Sandra Barnett	<p>I certainly hope that further consideration will be made to discontinuing the practice having a weighted grading system for honors and advance placement classes. It seems to me that the current policy offers incentives to further motivate excellent students and to challenge them. To remove the weighted grade system removes those incentives, and in fact may make students feel that there is no point in taking "harder" classes, and that doing</p>		

		<p>so may even endanger their grade point average. This is a bad idea, and I hope it will be rethought.</p>	
4/17/03	Manonmani Padmanaban	<p>I am the mother of a current 8th grade student who will be attending George Washington High School next year.</p> <p>I am totally against the policy that will eliminate weighted grades for honors classes.</p> <p>I believe kids benefit so much from taking challenging classes and getting rewarded for their hard work. If weighted grades are removed, this will totally harm the very intelligent and motivated children. They will find it very difficult to get in to top notch colleges with out the weighted grades. Therefore I totally reject uniform grading for regular and honors classes.</p>	
4/17/03	Yinhao Long Nitro High School	<p>Policy 2515 regarding the uniform grading system takes the wrong approach to "leveling the playing field." Leveling the playing field does not mean that we should cripple the best players; it means that we should provide every student with the same educational opportunities. Every school or at least a majority of the schools in West Virginia offers honors courses. Students decide if they want to take them. Honors students should be rewarded for their motivation and hard work with a weighted grade. If an average student feels this practice is unfair, he or she should enroll in an honors class.</p> <p>Some opponents of weighted grades use the policy of "no child left behind" to justify this opinion. Unfortunately, this practice favors apathetic free-loaders and leaves the bright scholars to fend for themselves. According to the new grading scale, an A will be 93%, just 1% different from the current standard of 94. However, a D is now only 65%, w hopping 5% change. With the extermination of weighted grades and quality points, what will stop a student from choosing an easier average class over a challenging honors course in order to maintain his or her GPA?</p> <p>For example, at Nitro High School, there are three classes of Travel WW, generally referred to as a "dump class" because of its lack of real assignments. However, all five classes are full every year while there is only one AP Calculus class and there only thirteen people in it. With the commencement of the new guidelines, even more people would enroll in these "dump classes."</p> <p>Of course, some people believe that with the elimination of weighted grades and quality points, students will stop being so concerned about</p>	

	<p>their grades and instead take courses that interest them. However, this will likely have the opposite effect. Some students may find courses such as honors 20th Century History mentally stimulating, but they may also feel that it is too difficult to get an A in the class. Therefore, the students will take the average class to keep their 4.0 GPA. The belief that "the grade is all" has been ingrained in our psyche from day one. Even if we change the policy now, it is too late to change society's, and colleges', emphasis on high school GPA.</p> <p>Furthermore, Policy 2515 will result in unfair class ranks for students with a more demanding schedule. For example, one may take honors U.S. History and receive a B while another may take Guitar and get an A. If all other grades were identical, the student who took Guitar would graduate with greater honors and a higher class rank than other students who opted to take a more difficult course.</p> <p>If the weighted grades create bias in the selection of Promise Scholarship candidates, why not simply remove the weighted grade requirement from the scholarship? The new standard could be an <i>unweighted</i> 3.0 GPA instead of producing mass confusion with the new policy and eliminating honors courses. Surely Occam's Razor can also apply to the West Virginia educational system.</p>	
4/17/03	<p>Colonel David F. Slaughter Nitro High School 1300 Park Ave. Nitro, WV 25143</p>	<p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003. All honors courses will disappear. No incentive for taking it. The challenging, different courses will no longer be taken. Colleges throughout the nation recognize honors classes – honors credit with increased quality points should remain as it is.</p>
4/17/03	<p>Steve Pauley Nitro High School 1300 Park Avenue Nitro, WV 25143</p>	<p>§126-37-1. General. I think it is a good idea to have a state-wide standardized grading scale/system.</p> <p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. I feel the proposed grading scale is fine.</p> <p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003. The weighted grades and honors courses should not be phased out. All schools should not be reduced to meet the standards of some. The opposite should be the mean.</p>

		<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. We should strive to get our schools all to the same level, a higher level. Some schools may not offer honors classes, that is what we need to change instead of doing away with honors courses and weighted grades.</p>	
4/17/03	<p>Mary Lu MacCorkle Nitro High School 1300 Park Avenue Nitro, WV 25143</p>	<p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. The grading scale that has been proposed here is appropriate for use with courses that are not honors, IB, AP and college level. It would be good for the entire state to have a consistent definition for each grade destination.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.</p> <p>This recommendation is going to be extremely detrimental to those counties where honors courses are already weighted. Our students have been very clear about the fact that they will not take more challenging courses without the extra weighting point. It is also unfair to pull out 2 small programs which are not available in every school to award weighting points to and not reward college level courses or honors courses in general. This is a very harmful proposal.</p>	
4/17/03	<p>Barbara Cristo 102 Dawn Heights Scott Depot, WV 25560</p>	<p>§126-37-1. General. Policy acceptable.</p> <p>§126-37-2. Purpose. Good idea</p> <p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. Acceptable</p> <p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003. Splitting ninth grade until they graduate will be difficult to track.</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. 5.2. Counties should be allowed to continue weighted grades for</p>	

		<p>Honors Classes as well as AP and IB courses. This section of the policy is punitive. Counties are being punished for challenging their students. Students will not take Honors or challenging classes. They will take the easier class because the grade is the same.</p> <p>A simple remedy would be to simply state that a 3.0 grade point average <u>unweighted</u> would be required for the Promise scholarship. Students would be on equal ground and counties with aggressive and progressive courses would not be penalized.</p>	
4/17/03	Roopan Fischer Nitro High School	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I definitely believe weighted grades should remain in our school system. Having weighted grades is an incentive for students to take the tougher, more challenging classes because the weighted classes can help their class rank. Instead of taking away such a positive incentive in the school system that pushes students to work harder, the Promise Scholarship should be based on an unweighted G.P.A., which will allow students to continue taking weighted classes, yet give all students an equal playing field, whether or not their school has weighted classes. Changing the standard of the Promise Scholarship is a much better solution to achieving the same results as taking away weighted grades. Many students benefit from weighted classes and more students are introduced to college-level material, which will give them future success. Schools can still be compared using unweighted grades while individual schools keep weighted grades as an incentive. Ultimately, weighted grades separate the average student from those willing to work harder and take the more difficult classes.</p>	
4/17/03	No Name	<p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade in or Before the School Year 2002-2003. Weighted grades are a positive incentive for students taking difficult classes. Eliminating the incentive would cause a drastic decrease in the number of students willing to take these classes. Instead of eliminating the weighted grades altogether, allow those schools using weighted grades to continue doing so. These</p>	

		students also have an unweighted GPA – either use that to determine PROMISE eligibility or create different standards for different counties based on their existing scales. This will encourage students to challenge themselves in taking more difficult classes.		
4/17/03	Ben Sanger PO Box 171 Nitro, WV 25143	§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9 th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Taking away weighted grades on a statewide scale will not only draw West Virginia schools backwards, but will discourage all students to take any higher, more challenging classes.		
4/17/03	Leona Elizabeth Tyree Student Nitro High School 219 2 nd St. North St. Albans, WV 25177	§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. Let's just make it easier for people that don't want to work that hard to pass a class. Let a student that works less than another get an "A", and be made equal in the eyes of others. §126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9 th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. If there is a problem with making all the counties equal for the requirements of the Promise Scholarship – why lower the quality of the county's schools. The Promise Scholarship committee could take the non-weighted grades for the requirements and keep the weighted grades for college applications. Because of other counties the state is going to cause counties with the weighted grades program to lower their education standards so that it will make high school education easier, and it will cause the students to not want to work hard, and to lessen their work ethic. So basically, sorry students because there are other counties that don't have the chance to have the honors classes you can't have them either. No way would we want to have people that know more than others we just want to make sure that the Promise Scholarship Committee can make everything equal. Although the committee could just look at the non-weighted grades that the high schools have available.		
4/17/03	Melanie Ward Senior Nitro High School 109 Glass Drive	§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9 th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Getting rid of weighted grades is a great way to get honors students to drop out of challenging classes. It's also a great way to		

	Cross Lanes, WV 25313	<p>allow students who get A's in classes such as Travel WV and Foods to be ranked higher than those who get B's in AP English and Chemistry. If the State Board of Education is trying to dummy down WV students as much as possible, then they have found the perfect plan. But, frankly, I can't remember a stupider idea in my entire history as a student. I'm so glad I'm getting out of WV public education now – for reasons such as this policy. I guess it hasn't occurred to you to simply drop the requirements for the PROMISE Scholarship to a 3.0 <u>unweighted</u> GPA, a solution that would both level the playing field for all students as well as continue to encourage honors students to take honors classes.</p>		
4/17/03	<p>Krista Gibson Nitro High School 1300 Park Avenue Nitro, WV 25143</p>	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Weighted classes allow for separation of students who care more about classes than others. Often students who care about grades take weighted classes in order to receive more credit. If this system is eliminated there is no doubt that the "Honors" and "AP" classes will dwindle away to nothing.</p>		
4/17/03	Amanda Greene	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I believe weighted grades and honors classes should remain in West Virginia schools. If weighted grades are taken away how is that going to help seniors receive good scholarships for college? Students need to be challenged instead of dropping the standards for them to succeed. Instead of getting rid of all weighted grades for the sake of the Promise Scholarship, why not just look at everyone's unweighted grades and keep honors classes? West Virginia students need weighted grades so they can compete for acceptance and scholarships from the college they want to go to, with students from other states. If a student from West Virginia with a 4.0 G:A and student from Ohio with a 4.25 GPA both want to go to the same school and compete for the same scholarship, the school is more than likely going to pick the student from Ohio with a 4.25 because his GPA is higher. Keep weighted grades in West Virginia!</p>		
4/17/03	John Musci	§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students		

	<p>Student Nitro High School 5312 Melwood Drive Cross Lanes, WV</p>	<p>Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Eliminating weighted grades will have the following repercussions: Lower student participation in the most rigorous and fulfilling courses; an increase of students taking "fluff" or easy courses; students who take all honors courses or the most difficult courses finishing with a significantly lower class rank than those students who take courses of little or no academic rigor.</p> <p>Overall, this move will decrease the overall quality of education students receive. Students will not take a difficult course and endanger their class rank or GPA. Ideally, students would be self-motivated, but in reality, for too much (scholarships, college) is riding on class rank and GPA. Please do not take away the only tangible reward students who challenge themselves academically receive.</p>		
4/17/03	<p>Elizabeth Wilson 2729 Lakeview Drive St. Albans, WV 25177</p>	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Weighted grades are an incentive for high schoolers to take weighted or honors classes. Without the extra points on their GPA, students may opt to take all averages classes and not challenge themselves because they would get lower grades in harder classes and ruin their GPAs. Also, without weighted grades, average students would be at the top of the rankings.</p>		
4/17/03	<p>No Name</p>	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. If weighted grades are taken away from students then less children will take honors or upper level classes. No one would want to take the AP classes if they didn't get credit for it. The kids taking all average classes would end up top of their class instead of those getting B's in AP classes.</p>		
4/17/03	<p>No Name</p>	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. The whole problem is the Promise Scholarship. Instead of bringing everyone down, the people should look at the <u>unweighted</u> grades instead of weighted grades to decide on applicants for the Promise. It's not fair to those who want to challenge themselves in</p>		

		honors/AP classes and not reward them with the extra point. You should try to challenge students not discourage them from taking the honors classes.		
4/17/03	Drew McClanahan	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Instead of lowering the grading scale and dropping weighted grades, perhaps the rest of the state should raise their level, instead of lowering the others. Students who take the advanced courses should be rewarded for their level of classes. It is ridiculous to think the state will lower its level instead of trying to raise it.</p>		
4/17/03	Blaine C. Hess Jackson County Schools PO Box 770 Ripley, WV 25271	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. In prohibiting the weighting of grades for dual credit college classes, the impact on the number of students attending college course during high school will likely decline. 5.4.1. & 5.4.2 Since the State Superintendent may restrict the weighting of AP and IB courses until ALL counties in the state pay for the testing, it is likely that these courses may not be weighted. This further discourages students from taking these high level courses. Additionally, provision 5.4.2 which establishes a performance left on the tests is not feasible since the test results are not available until well after seniors have graduated.</p>		
4/17/03	Ohio County Schools 2203 National Road Wheeling, WV 26003	<p>§126-37-1. General. 1.1 We believe that a uniform grading policy will reduce the high standards to which our parents and students have become accustomed. We want to continue to set high expectations for our students, giving them no chance to be mediocre when they can achieve much more.</p> <p>§126-37-2. Purpose. 2.1 We believe that this policy inhibits the local control that is essential to meeting the needs of each region. Our community supports our commitment to high standards as shown by the passage of many consecutive levies and bond issues. Many families in our area actively seek schools that boast high achievement and rigorous standards. Our current high standards contribute to maintaining student enrollment levels which is imperative because we are in competition with three private /</p>		

		<p>parochial high schools in our county alone, and faced with more and more parents who would home school children if the schools were not as academically rigorous as they are now.</p> <p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale. 3.1 and 3.2 – Schools should be permitted to use a higher grading scale if it meets the needs of their clients. If a uniform grading scale throughout the state is imperative, then the scale should be: 94 -100 A, 87 – 93 B, 78 – 86 C, 70 – 77 D, 0 – 69 F. Do you really want 65% to be a passing grade?</p> <p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. 5.1. – By using only a 4.0 grading scale, we will reduce the competition for our many local scholarships. The honor of becoming class valedictorian will be decreased. 5.2 - We support the use of weighted grades for AP and IB courses. We support weighted grades for honors courses as well, because there is no incentive to take more difficult courses if weighting cannot be used to determine a student's grade. 5.4 – The test results will be supplied to late to be used in grade calculations.</p>		
4/18/03	Rhoda Fitzsimmons Tyler Consolidated H.S. 1993 Silver Knight Drive Sistersville, WV 26175	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. 5.2. The weighted grades policy should include additional honors level courses that are extremely rigorous – ad determined by each COUNTY.</p>		
4/18/03	Janet L. Fraley Tyler Consolidated H. S. 1993 Silver Knight Drive Sistersville, WV 26175	<p>§126-37-1. General. A uniform grading system will not effect uniform teaching or uniform grading of the same material among teachers.</p> <p>§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. I believe that lowering the grading scale for classes while raising the scale for standardized tests is a contradiction.</p> <p>§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.</p>		

		Permitting weighted graded to some classes but not others would result in two grading systems at the same time: weighted grades for upper classmen but not freshmen.		
4/18/03	Janet Kalbaugh Counselor Keyser High School Rt. 4 Box 110 Keyser, WV 26726	<p>§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I do not agree that two quality points should be given for a grade of 65-75% in a weighted class. It would reward students for mediocrity.</p> <p>§126-37-2. Purpose. Weighted grades should also be issued for high school students taking college courses through a state college or university. We should be encouraging students to enroll in challenging curriculum by rewarding with a weighted grade. College courses, taken while in high school, are good transitional courses, but students and parents will be hesitant to enroll for these courses if not having a weighted grade might put the PROMISE in jeopardy.</p>		
4/18/03	Harry and Kathryn Bruner	<p>Our four children have benefited from the current weighted grading policy. It addresses student academic risk and parent financial risk. Students can reasonably risk taking harder and challenging courses, and their parents do not inordinately risk financial loss of scholarship funds.</p> <p>At George Washington High School (GWHS), class enrollment in Mr. Dodd's honors chemistry, Dr. Crouch's anatomy class and honors math courses would drop 95% and be discontinued in our opinion.</p> <p>We use both unweighted and weighted grades for our performance review. My oldest daughter is going to law school primarily because of the quality, tough courses she took at GWHS which prepared her to take tough courses in college. Please do not change the current grading policy. It is working for our four children.</p>		
4/18/03	Jayesh Shah Parent Kanawha Co.	I am a parent of a student in 8th grade in Kanawha County Public School System.		

		<p>It was with great horror and shock that I read the 'Uniform Grading System'.</p> <p>I think this policy punishes the students who want to achieve something. It does not encourage the students to take honor classes. As you must know, Honor classes are challenging and therefore, it is likely that students may not get the same grades in these classes as they would get in regular classes. With the new grading system, the students will be tempted to take regular classes instead of Honor classes.</p> <p>This system discourages hard work. It encourages "Mediocrity".</p> <p>I hope that you will listen to the opinions of many parents like me and not implement "Uniform Grading System".</p>		
4/18/03	<p>Donna L. Phillips Rt. 1 Box 142 Ridgeley, WV 26753 Mineral County</p>	<p>My comments to you are about the uniform grading policy. I had the privilege to speak at your February board meeting about this matter. Many of our Mineral County parents had mailed or e-mailed their concerns about these changes. On your website after that meeting there was a statement concerning this policy. The person quoted said that this would create a "level playing field". This couldn't be further from the truth. Certainly there needs to be equity for those students applying for the Promise Scholarship. Those who offer the Promise ask only that you give them equity, not that you make the scale more difficult. My concern was that you made it more difficult so that they would not have to give as many Promise Scholarships. Mr. Morganstern denied that there was any truth to that matter. In my opinion the video gambling industry could afford the additional scholarships that would be given if you changed the scale to what Mineral County presently has which is 93-100, 83-92 etc. This is difficult enough. The proposed policy suffers from a severe case of tunnel vision. Certainly there is equity in the state and therefore equity for those competing for the Promise. Where then is the equity and the "level playing field" for those students like my daughter who will be attending a local community college and competing against</p>		

		<p>students with a 90-100 grading scale. In fact, the college itself has a 90-100 scale. Your proposed changes ONLY benefit those students applying for the Promise. It does not benefit those marginal students struggling just to keep their heads above water. Is it your intention to put these students at an even greater disadvantage? You are. What about those students entering middle school? You know, those 5th grade children, the 10 year old children. What about Jenna, Danny and Marc? These are my three children. You know them. Susie and Billy average student. The ones who study faithfully for tests, are prepared for class and complete homework on time. You know them, students with an average of 83 or 84%. These kids work so very hard and so do I to make the grade so to speak. You are probably thinking, so what is the big deal about 1 or 2 percent. It is a tremendously big deal. We are doing all we can do and you and those that proposed this policy don't seem to care who they hurt. Please, I am begging you to reconsider making the scale 85,75 etc. Please look at 93,83 73 etc. I appreciate your time.</p>		
4/18/03	<p>Robert P. Mason Asst. Superintendent Mineral County Schools One Baker Place Keyser, WV 26726</p>	<p>My comment is on 126-37-5 Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004</p> <p>Dual-credit college courses should have weighted grades!!! Otherwise, we will be in the position of encouraging and rewarding students for taking AP and IB courses but NOT actual dual-credit college courses! This seems to be defeating the primary purpose when we are trying to increase our college going rate!</p> <p>In Policy 2510, sections 5.39 and 7.2.12 there is language stating that a school or school system must have 75% attendance for that day to constitute a school day. This policy assumes that we have the ability to make decisions that the parents make for their child(ren). We cannot make students come to school. We can encourage them, but we cannot force them to be here. If another day would be set for make-up, how many of those students who were absent the first time do you think would be there for the make-up day? This is crazy! Also, I believe you are superseding your role of an executive branch when you change legislation that passed both the House of Delegates and the Senate. You are</p>		
4/18/03	<p>Iforinas@access.k12.wv.us</p>			

	negating a day that the Legislature passed as an OSE Day and forcing employees to work due to a situation that we have no control over - students attendance.		
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Policy 2515
Series 37
UNIFORM GRADING POLICY
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Individual/Organization: Lori Helmick, Charles K. Heinlein
St. Marys High School

Address: 1002 Second Street
St. Marys, WV 26170

This page appeared to be missing so I typed one off the format from the previous comment periods.

§126-37-3. Grading Scale.

60% of school systems are using 70% or higher as passing. I do not recommend lowering the scale and lowering the integrity of the systems. There also needs to be a uniform scale to compensate students who are taking more difficult courses. This was included and still there in the December 2002 minutes and appears to be missing now. I was on the committee that worked in October and I am confused about how this process is changing the policy again and again.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades.

I will attach a policy that was considered at one time that had a great remedy to this dilemma. Weighted grades need to be given to keep kids in the courses that they need that are difficult and affect the GPA.

§126-37-5. Severability.

According to the dictionary, this is not a word. I am going to assume you would like to know how to leave the current policy and implement the new. Therefore, I feel that it cannot be retroactive but should be implemented with the new year.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

Previous
comments
that are
still applicable.

**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

Comment Period Ends: November 22, 2002

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2510: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Lori Helmick, St. Marys High School

Address: 1002 Second Street

St. Marys, WV 26170

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

See Attached

§126-37-2. Purpose.

See Attached

§126-37-3. Grading Scale.

I am in disagreement about the new grading policy to provide uniformity among WV Counties for the for the following reasons:

If over 60% of the school systems are operating with a grading scale of 70% or above as passing, why would you lower the grading scale and lower the integrity of the educational system. Furthermore, if the reason we are providing uniformity is for the problems that arose during the promise scholarship, what in the world does the D-F uniformity address for those in the 3.0 range?

Now, what we should be addressing: How do we adequately compensate and encourage students to continue to take courses that are needed for their college major? Since the Promise people were only concerned about the core classes, I think this is where we need to focus until they realize their error. So we should look at weighting courses that are science and math upper level courses to keep students in those courses. It is important that we have a scale that addresses this compensation within the 4.0 scales. The work that was done initially by the committee for establishing grade weighting did an excellent job of addressing this issue. In fact, it was so logical and effective that it was immediately dismissed because "most" of 40 commenters believed that weighting should remain in place. (In case you are not analytical enough to figure this out, it is in AGREEMENT with what we are ELIMINATING.) Where in the world, then, did the removal of weighting come into play? It is important to note that on the committee of fifty representatives, "most" felt that we were doing a logical and effective policy. Do these people's voices account for nothing in the end? "Most" of them did not comment because they felt that it was going well. Why are you using terms like most, many and few when the data could have been reported in terms of those of the 40 commenters, i.e. 28% or 13 of 40. Yes, that would make it easier to analyze, so I again see why it was left in the vague text.

In addressing the weighting issue in the second meeting it was stated that counties could weight as long as they are converted to the 4.0 scale. Does this mean that the weighting disappears that was applied or only those who weight within the 4.0 scale by adding points and skewing results prior to posting will receive the weighting. This policy is so ambiguous that those of us who work with GPA's every day do not even understand the terminology. I felt that the first draft spelled out a uniform weighting that was very clear. Thus, I see that we have eliminated it because it would have met the intent of the committee's work to provide uniformity while encouraging students and compensating them for their work in upper level courses without penalty for the Promise Scholarship. When you implement a clause that removes weighting, this façade to the student population is bogus and cruel.

Lori Helmick

It was clear from the discussion that there was not widespread consensus among the participants for any specific course of action except the first item of the proposal. Most participants would prefer that the whole grading issue be left to local control. The premise of the meeting was that while leaving the issue to be determined at the local level is highly desirable, it may not be possible. And, if it is not possible, it would be better to have the State Board establish a policy than have the Legislature implement one.

Proposal for Discussion

(Comments welcome: use the comment form attached to this memorandum)

1. Recommend to the Legislature that the W. Va. Code sec. 18C-7-6(a) be changed to eliminate the use of grade point average in determining eligibility for a PROMISE scholarship. [There was almost unanimous agreement with this statement.]
2. Establish two grading scales: one for all courses other than College Board Advanced Placement Courses or International Baccalaureate Courses, and a second for AP/IB courses.
3. The grading scales:

a.	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Non-AP/IB Courses</u>	<u>AP/IB Courses</u>	<u>Quality Points</u>
	A	93	90	4.0
	B	85	83	3.0
	C	77	76	2.0
	D	70	70	1.0
	F	0-69	0-69	

4. No other weighting would be allowed. [There was extensive discussion about weighting for honors courses or college or dual credit courses.]
5. The grading scales would apply to any course taken for high school credit regardless of the grade level of the student at the time the course was taken.
6. The changes would be made by State Board Policy and would take effect July 1, 2003.
7. There would be no refiguring of student grades received prior to July 1, 2003. Those grades would be part of the student's GPA as would grades received after July 1, 2003 under the new grading scales.

Please take a few minutes to review the proposals and provide your thoughts using the attached comment form. If you would prefer to submit your comments electronically, you may do so by going to <http://wvde.state.wv.us/gradingpolicy/>.

This issue will be placed on the agenda for the Superintendent's Institute for discussion on the morning of October 4th.

If your county was represented at the meeting yesterday, I would encourage you to send the same representative(s) to the October 8th meeting as he/she/they will have had the benefit of the extended discussion yesterday.

If your county was not represented yesterday, I would encourage you to attend the October 8th meeting or at least send a representative.

BL/psb

c: State Board Members
Dr. David Stewart and Department Cabinet Members
Principals
Faculty Senate Chairs
Participants, September 17th meeting
RESA Directors

0737psb/6a

Pam Bird

From: Mike Burke [mcburke@access.k12.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2003 4:06 PM
To: wluff@access.k12.wv.us; pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: 2515 comment

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515:
Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Mike Burke, Director of General Education, Mineral
County Schools

Address: 1 Baker place, Keyser West Virginia, 26726

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-4. *Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.*

No comment on this section.

§126-37-5. *Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.*

Provisions in this section will cause a decline in the number of Mineral County Students who enroll as seniors from Mineral county high schools into college classes at Potomac State College of West Virginia University. If the wording "County boards shall issue weighted grades and quality points only for AP and IB courses" is retained, students will not enroll into higher level college classes that may impact their GPA's without the advantage of weighted grades.

Mineral County used weighted grades to encourage students to do advanced studies while in high school in an effort to improve college enrollment. Loss of quality points will be seen as endangering "Promise" rewards. If there is concern about the quality of college instruction, Mineral only permits instruction from the college. Any other concern should be addressed without loss of the quality point encouragement.

Pam Bird

From: Christine Michael [chmichae@access.k12.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2003 10:09 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: WV const.Articl XII - WV Code 18-2-5



Does anyone at the State Department read the research?
Why is WV in love with mediocrity?

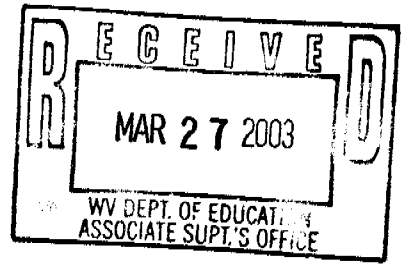
The proposal to not weight honors classes will serve to destroy the honors program in West Virginia. Due to the to 3.0 GPA for the Promise Scholarship, students will not risk getting a C in an honors class. Additionally, two students with the same grades, one in an honors class and one in regular education, will rank the same in class standings. This proposal is ridiculous and obviously suggested by people who are not working with high school students.

The research tells us that the foremost predictor of success in college is the rigor of the high school classes. This proposal will force the "dumbing down" of our curriculum because students of all levels will be lumped together. Teachers, therefore, will teach to the middle of the class, not challenging the top students and losing the bottom.

Please do not put this proposal into effect. It will doom our state to mediocrity!!!!

Christine Michael
Assistant Principal
George Washington High School

3/27/03



126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Elaine Gayton - Kanawha Co. Schools

Address: 200 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Counties must be allowed to continue to offer weighted grades for honors and dual credit courses! Kanawha County has dozens of honors level courses and thousands of students enrolled in them. These courses will be eliminated if weighted grades are not given. Students who wish to pursue a more rigorous course of studies are being penalized! What incentive will students have to take higher-level courses?

PLEASE give counties some flexibility and local control in what is considered for weighted status! Our student populations vary greatly from county to county. Please allow us to do what is best for our own students!

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Kanawha County Schools / Ron Duerring
Address: 200 Elizabeth St.
Char. WV 25311

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Cindy Daniel, Asst. Superintendent, KCS

Address: 200 Elizabeth St.
Chas, W 25314

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

- Does this mean that this year's 9th graders will continue w/ weighted grades through 12th grade? If so, then you'll have this group in a same class with next year's group and one will be getting weighted credit and one won't. That will never work!!

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

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§126-37-6. Severability.

↘ So, an 8th grader taking Geometry, Algebra II, etc. will not get a weighted grade? What incentive will students have to accelerate?

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pbird@access.k12.wv.us

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Cindy Daniel / KCS

Address: 200 Elizabeth St.
Chas, WV 25311

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

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§126-37-6. Severability.

We are working extremely hard to raise standards for all children; just as in NCLB. This goes against everything we are trying to do!

RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Melanie Vickers
Address: Kanawha County Schools
200 Elizabeth St.

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

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§126-37-6. Severability.

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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Leonard Allen/Kanawha County Schools
Address: 200 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

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§126-37-6. Severability.

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Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Caroline Cloer Kanawha County Schools

Address: 200 Elizabeth Street
Charleston, WV 25311

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

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§126-37-6. Severability.

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Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Nancy Douglas, Director, Federal Programs, Title I
Kauaie Co. Schools
Address: 200 Elizabeth St.
Charleston, WV 25311

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

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§126-37-6. Severability.

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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: David S. Anderson / Kanawha County Schools

Address: 1584 Lee St. E.
Charleston, WV 25311

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

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West Virginia Department of Education
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Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: CHARLES WILSON / KAN CO SCHOOLS

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

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§126-37-6. Severability.

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Weighted Grading

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Kan. Co. Schools - J. P. Jan

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

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§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

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126CSR37

**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Laura Bowles, Counselor, Sissonville High School

Address: 6100 Sissonville Dr., Charleston, WV 25312

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General. The Uniform Grading System is anything but uniform. Very few schools even offer the IB program due to the tremendous expense of training staff and implementing the program. Only one school even offers the IB curriculum in Kanawha County.

For the state superintendent to determine whether or not to grant weighted value to AP grades would cause chaos for graduating seniors. Test results do not come to schools that can even offer AP classes until late summer. Therefore, seniors would not have an accurate final GPA for any late scholarship programs or colleges that request them.

Honors classes are academically more challenging than regular classes and students taking these classes should receive the extra quality points. Without the weighted grade incentive very few students would be willing to take honors classes because of the 3.0 GPA

§126-37-2. Purpose. requirement overall and in core classes for the Promise Scholarship.

There seems to be an all-out effort to have consistent grading policies in West Virginia. To ignore honors and dual credit classes for weighted credit, yet put emphasis on AP and IB classes, totally destroys this effort. Smaller counties and smaller schools do not have the staff nor do they have the funding to offer AP or IB classes. Only if the state funded AP and IB classes including the tremendous expense of testing every student in all high schools, this new policy ^{does not} have any sense of equality. Would it not be more equal to give weighted value to all Honors classes in all counties.

126CSR37

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

Why lower the grading standards and not recognize honors classes for weighted grades? This grading scale will not encourage students to take honors classes, which they desperately need to succeed in college.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

It would be unfair to change a grading scale when students have been earning grades under another system. Because of the Promise Scholarship many, many students are very aware of the grading scales and GPA's as are their parents. I suspect that parents would challenge this change in the middle of their children's high school years and would even go to court to stop this policy. The grading scale alone, without the weighted grade policy would work out okay with minimum confusion.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

This would be very confusing in classes that include grades 9-12 (PE, Health, various math classes). How could a school operate with a variety of students on different scales?

§126-37-6. Severability.

NO COMMENT

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Denise White

Address: 149 W Central Ave
Belle, WV 25015

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

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§126-37-6. Severability.

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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Fred R. Albert

Address: P. O. Box 2722
Charleston, WV 25330-2722

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

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§126-37-6. Severability.

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Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Patty Akers

Address: 1111 Meadow Way
Charleston, W.V. 25313

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

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§126-37-6. Severability.

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Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization:

Cynthia C. Phillips

Address:

931 Main St.

Charleston, WV 25302

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

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Individual/Organization:

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§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Counties must be allowed to continue to offer weighted grades for honors and dual credit courses! Kanawha County has dozens of honors level courses and thousands of students enrolled in them. These courses will be eliminated if weighted grades are not given. Students who wish to pursue a more rigorous course of studies are being penalized! What incentive will students have to take higher-level courses?

PLEASE give counties some flexibility and local control in what is considered for weighted status! Our student populations vary greatly from county to county. Please allow us to do what is best for our own students!

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Elizabeth Reggall - E-board AFT
Address: 248 Sunset Drive
Charleston WV 25301

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

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§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

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1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization:

Kimberly L. Williams

Address:

*4214 Lancaster Ave
Charleston, WV 25304*

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

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§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

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Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization:

Thirion Maynor

Address:

729 Elk Estates

Elkview, WV 25071

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

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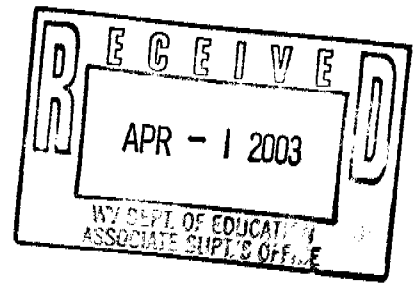
§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: C. Strader - AP

Address: EBMS PO Box 897 EB, WV 25067

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

This scale is not fair to those students taking college level courses.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

We are going to lose/penalize students because of this proposal.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Weighted grades — students taking college or dual credit work just as hard as students taking honors classes. These grades should be weighted. You are penalizing those who want to have college credit.

§126-37-6. Severability.

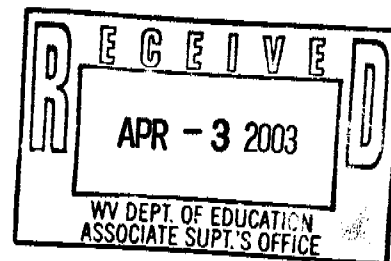
RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Lori Helmick St Marys High
Address: 121 Franklin Lane
Sistersville, WV 26175

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

—

§126-37-2. Purpose.

—

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

① Nonweighted: Passing 70% or higher. Don't jeopardize the integrity of our system.

② If counties aren't required to adopt this, how is that uniform?

③ Your weighted scale is 4.0 scale.
 Ridiculous! It must be on a 4.0 scale.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

Fine

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

① What about 8th graders taking HS honors courses?

② Scale should be a 4.0 with a concordance tied to original ~~scale~~ scale

§126-37-6. Severability. ← Sp?

RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine
 Deputy State Superintendent
 West Virginia Department of Education
 Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
 Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us

Please see previous comments from Nov - Mar for clarification on above issues.

Additional comment: I served on the state's committee last fall and I have been appalled at how this situation has been →

handled. The first meet was very logical and the results from that session were valuable. EVERYTHING that I have seen/heard since has been a far cry from where we were initially. I do not wish to have my name in any way associated with this policy because I do not support it and have NO idea where this representation of ideas came from??!!

Lori Helmick
Counselor

126CSR37

**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

Comment Period Ends: March 28, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Gregory H. Moore, teacher

Address: Rt. 5, Box 3

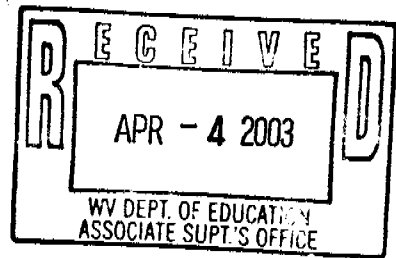
Clarksburg, WV 26301

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

Is it possible to consider as a purpose having school report these grades in a numerical fashion? It is difficult to explain to students and parents why a 92.4% grade is considered the same as a 84.5% grade when reporting to parents and to colleges. Additionally, requiring numerical grading systems would encourage students to work for an entire semester, rather than simply working until they are guaranteed a passing grade for the semester and then doing nothing for the remainder of the semester. In my county, a student can receive grades of C and D for the first two grading periods (6 weeks) of the semester, and then do absolutely nothing for the last grading period and sign their name to the semester examination, but still pass the course because averaging quality points rather than percentage grades has already guaranteed a passing grade in the course.



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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Barbara Redman, Kan. Co. Schools

Address: 200 Elizabeth Street, Charleston, WV
25311

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

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PLEASE give counties some flexibility and local control in what is considered for weighted status! Our student populations vary greatly from county to county. Please allow us to do what is best for our own students!

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

Pam Bird

From: Christine Michael [chmichae@access.k12.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2003 2:49 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: policy 2515 comment

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

We must allow honors classes to be weighted to encourage students to elect rigorous courses. A strong curricular foundation is the number one predictor of success in college. Students needing the Promise Scholarship for college will not risk getting a C in an honors class if it is not weighted. The differential system will not prevent a regular education student from reaching his goal of the Promise Scholarship, for the only objective measure we have is the ACT score of 21.



christine michael

17 tyree circle

Elkview, WV 25071

4/7/03

126CSR37

**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Tracey Hall

Address: 2035 Scraggs Drive, Charleston, WV 25312

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

I am happy that a set standard is finally being established for the students of WV. As a teacher, I know that the differences in grading scales really plagues the students. They complain all the time that at SO & SO High School, a 93 is an 'A' but at my high school it is a 'B' and that is unfair to my GPA. In the first county that employed me, grades were recorded at percentages; they didn't use the 4.0 scale. This caused the counselors to have to do a lot of conversion when records were sent to colleges. I would hope that a uniform scale statewide would eliminate these problems.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

HERE is where I have the problem with the policy. To have a teacher certified to teach either the IB or the AP curriculum requires money. The teacher pays (either personally or through the county) to take that training. The courses require testing that also require money from the students. Making only the IB or AP courses the only weighted grades places those schools/counties/students that do not have the resources for such things at a huge disadvantage. Perhaps the state school board could establish some curriculum objectives for classes that could be recognized as "HONORS LEVEL" courses. These courses could be taught by any certified teacher, so the financial burden on the schools would be minimal.

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
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pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

126CSR37

**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Johanna V. Halstead

Individual/Organization: _____

Address: 1132 Strawberry Road, St. Albans, WV 25177

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

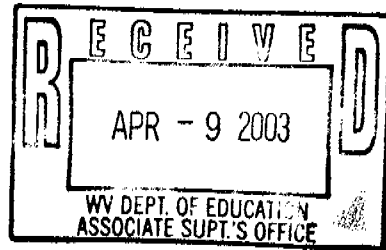
§126-37-1. General.

I believe that we do need this Uniform Grading Policy. Most colleges and universities do not recognize weighted grades. If a student is truly interested in their education they will do their best. This grading scale is more in line with the colleges and university also.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: FRANK ALIVETA DEPT. SUPERINTENDENT BERKELEY CO. SCHOOLS

Address: 401 So. Queen St. MARTINSBURG, WV 25401

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

① Berkeley Co. Schools fully support the uniform grading scale.
② Berkeley Co. Schools oppose the weighting of courses, however, if courses must be weighted we feel the current proposal, limiting weighting of classes to AP and IB classes only is acceptable.

Frank Aliveta
4/7/03

Pam Bird

From: AmERICA8819@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, April 09, 2003 9:26 PM

To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us

Subject: DO NOT MAKE HONORS CLASSES NONWEIGHTED

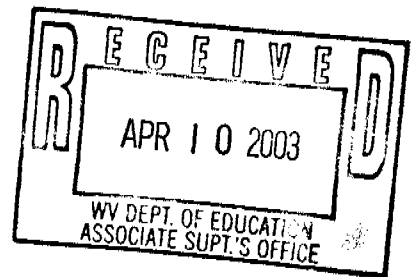
If you make honors classes non weighted, then most kids will not see the point in striving so hard to barely pass in an honors class, when they could make an a in a regular class. THIS IS STUPID! I would hate it so much if you took this privilege away from me because it makes me work harder in school.

*Erica Sladky-9th grade-George Washington High School-Chas

4/11/03

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Richard L. Boehman / Keyser High School

Address: One Tornado Way
Keyser WV 26226

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

~~Do~~ ~~you~~ ~~think~~ Do you honestly think this helps education in W.Va.?

§126-37-2. Purpose.

- 5.2 In addition to AP and IB courses, some students take dual credit college classes through local W.Va. colleges. These classes give students a head start on college work and should be encouraged. Therefore "College classes" taught by "College Faculty" should also be weighted.
- 5.4 Is stupid and should be thrown out. We need to encourage students to take more difficult classes, not punishing them for doing so.

Pam Bird

From: joe [joetwo@charter.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2003 2:01 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Cc: dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Policy 2515

To whom it may concern,

Please do not eliminate the Policy where Honors Classes are weighted. What incentive would students have to take these classes? Yes, there would be a few who take them for the joy of learning , but in high school a major incentive is the fact that they are weighted. If we remove this incentive less students will more than likely take them. I think we need to challenge and stimulate our students (I have children ages 12, 11 and 15) and challenging classes are the best way to do this and to get them to think. Also, in WV, with the Promise Scholarship and others, many students won't risk a lower grade because very real financial considerations. I know that I look back on the honors classes I took in High School, and I still can see how some of them enhanced my life (although I may not have fully appreciated it at the time.) I don't know what arguments are being put forth in favor of this policy. Perhaps one reason is that classes vary between schools. But I would argue that this is going to be the case whether classes are honors or not. When comparing schools, and grades between schools, we are always going to be comparing "apples to oranges" to an extent.

Thank you so much for your consideration

Sincerely,
Joe Farris
Charleston

4/11/03

Pam Bird

From: LAHS7893@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2003 8:35 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: honor student policy at gw

This is in response to an announcement my daughter brought home from school yesterday. It concerns the honors classes at George Washington High School (GW) in Charleston, WV. A new policy proposes to do away with weighted classes for these intelligent and motivated students...please do not allow this to happen! These classes prepare and encourage for greatness in the future and puts GW ahead of other school academically. Do the right thing and keep it the way it is!

Thanks,
Anne H. Sladky-mother
Erica Sladky-GW student
1829 Devondale Cr.
Charleston, WV 25314
(304)344-2061

4/11/03

Pam Bird

From: Tony Sade [tsade52@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2003 10:04 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Cc: dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Policy 2515 Revision, Section 126-37-5

Gentlemen:

I am "writing" to urge you to reject section 126-37-5 of the proposed "Uniform Grading System" Rule (2515) by which only AP and IB courses would receive weighted grades and quality points. The result of this policy would be to remove honors courses from the list of courses eligible to receive such treatment.

I have a son, Gregory Cloonan, in ninth grade at George Washington High School in Charleston who is currently enrolled in several honors courses. While I understand that the proposed rule, if enacted, will only affect students entering 9th grade in or after the 2003-04 school year, the proposed change concerns me nonetheless. Chief among these concerns is the fact that I expect that my other child, currently a fourth grader, also will be able to take advantage of GW's honors courses when he reaches 9th grade.

Since the proposed rule states as its only purpose the establishment of a uniform grading system for all high schools, I cannot be sure of the specific reason for the proposed change regarding the treatment of honors course grades.

Regardless of the motivation behind the rule, I am relatively certain of its impact, which undoubtedly will be to discourage students from taking such courses. While I recognize and applaud the notion that academic excellence should be its own reward, there are practical implications that simply cannot be ignored. Students who need to receive academic scholarships, including, most importantly, the Promise Scholarship, will no doubt be disinclined to risk a lower grade in an honors course if the impact of their decision to risk a more academically rigorous course is to put the likelihood of financial assistance in jeopardy.

We (parents, teachers, and administrators) should be doing all we can to motivate our children to succeed academically in high school, given the well-established and direct correlation between the rigor of a high school curriculum and success in college.

I believe that the proposed rule is fatally flawed and I urge you to reject it.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

David A. Sade
1003 Circle Rd.
Charleston, WV 25314
304-344-8346 (h)
304-558-0526 (w)
tsade52@yahoo.com

Pam Bird

From: Darcel Vermillion [dvermill@access.k12.wv.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2003 11:12 AM
To: Pam Bird
Subject: FW: [Lglizit4me@aol.com: honors classes]

This one came to the WVDE Webmaster.

Darcel Vermillion, Executive Secretary
Office of the State Superintendent
WV Department of Education
Phone: (304) 558-2681
Fax: (304) 558-0048
dvermill@access.k12.wv.us

----- Forwarded message from Lglizit4me@aol.com -----

Date: Thu, 10 Apr 2003 07:57:16 EDT
From: Lglizit4me@aol.com
Subject: honors classes

Please, if you have ever attended an honors class as opposed to a regular (Y) class, you would definitely NOT want to do away with them. This e-mail is in response to the proposed state policy currently under discussion.

Don't give Honors Classes away. That peer group, top quality effort is what keeps us sane. Are you dumbing us down? That's no fair, you know?

Please don't let this pass. Thanks, Daniel Muehlman GWHS

Pam Bird

From: Brad Crouser [bradcrouser@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2003 8:16 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us; dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Pending WV Education Policy No. 2515

This is to strongly urge the rejection of proposed Policy 2515 of Sec. 126-37-5.

Honors classes should continue to be weighted.

I have two children currently taking honors classes, getting A's in them. But I can assure you that if they were not weighted, they would have taken easier courses, to maintain their grade averages. But I'm glad they have incentive to take them, because those honor classes are preparing them for college and careers. It's similar to offering a bonus to get more work from an employee; there must be some reward.

To change this policy as currently proposed will go a long way in "dumbing down" our education system in West Virginia. It will be very harmful and in opposition to stated goals of our system. It is opposed to all educational research which affirms that the foremost predictor of success in college is the rigor of the high school curriculum.

Please do not allow that to happen.

Bradley A. Crouser
1147 Emerald Road
Charleston, WV 25314

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<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/featuredemail>

Pam Bird

From: QTKTLucky13@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2003 9:20 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: No weighted grades for very difficult honors classes

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Current Ninth Grade Student at George Washington High
Power

School - Katie

Address: 1511 Bedford Road Charleston, WV 25314

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

4/11/03

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

I think the policy of not providing weighted grades for students who work so much harder in honors classes is very unfair. I see no advantage in taking this reward away from students who put all of their effort into taking these classes and doing their best in them. Passing this policy will most likely result in several honors classes not being filled and students not pushing themselves to their maximum level of academic success. Having this policy would discourage students from taking honors classes since students would complete twice the amount of work for the same grade students could receive in a much easier regular class. If this policy is passed, I believe the state will see a lack of motivation in students and much lower grades. It would truly be a shame if this proposed policy is finalized.

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us

4/11/03

Pam Bird

From: Janet R. Masters [jrmasters@charter.net]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 8:01 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Cc: Ron Duerring
Subject: Comment on Policy 2515

POLICY 2515

SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Janet R. Masters

Address: 101 Abney Circle

Charleston, WV 25314

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General.

Â§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

I applaud the Board's change to provide uniformity in the grading scale for all state schools. It may need to go further to bring West Virginia in line with other states. This change provides needed uniformity without changes in other provisions which affect currently offered honors classes.

Â§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

Â§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

I strongly object to the change in the provision starting in the school year 2003 - 2004. My child will be a ninth grade student at George Washing High School in Kanawha County next fall. At present he is scheduled to take all honors courses offered him. Due to the challenging nature of these courses, I feel

4/11/03

the courses should be weighted to reflect their difficulty. Without this, students will have little incentive to take the more challenging honors courses. This change could dramatically affect the character of George Washington High School, which should be emulated due to its success, not changed to weaken its current appeal. While I understand the need for uniformity, I feel this change would be detrimental to the students taking honors courses, and schools which offer them.

Â§126-37-6. Severability.

4/11/03

Pam Bird

From: Douglas Smoot [thsmoots@wv-cis.net]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 12:46 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Cc: dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Pending WV Education Policy No. 2515

I am writing as the concerned parent of two students at George Washington High School. Both of my children are taking honors classes, and doing well in them. They are taking these classes for the challenges they represent, and as a way to prepare for college. Part of the 'pay off' for taking these classes, as they see it, is the fact that their grades in them are weighted. It is the compensation for taking a class which is much more difficult than the standard courses offered at the school.

It is not easy for me to understand why you are considering adopting a policy which would remove a large part of the motivation for students to excel in school. This is what I fear will happen if only grades from AP and IB classes are allowed to be weighted. It is as though you wish to punish those who have already demonstrated their willingness to work harder, and to take on greater challenges than their peers.

I urge you reject this part of Policy 2515.

Sincerely, Stephanie Smoot

4/11/03

Pam Bird

From: BETTSABRAHAM@aol.com
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 11:55 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: WVDE Policy 2515; Section 126-37-5

I wish to strongly protest the approval of WVDE Policy 2515, particularly section 126-37-5. The elimination of weighted grades for honors courses in high schools across the state will eliminate much of the motivation for students to choose more challenging honors courses over regular classes. The student will ask why he or she should take a more difficult class and risk getting a lower grade when an easier course would fulfill the graduation requirement and provide the same reward (grade). This is a setback for all educators and parents who urge their students to enroll in more challenging classes, and will be detrimental to the quest for a higher quality education system in West Virginia. Please do not place this policy in effect.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth E.

Abraham

1632 Greystone

Rd.

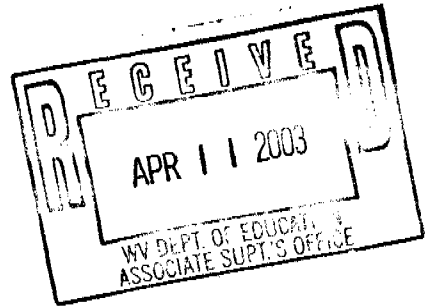
Charleston, WV

25314

(304)-342-3897

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Cary Kyle, Keyser High School, Mineral Co.

Address: One Tornado Way
Keyser, WV 26726

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

126-37-3

.2 - AP, IB and Concurrent Credit College Courses should be weighted.

S. 9; S. 4.1; S. 4.2 - Throw these out the window. Scores do not come in until summer. If a student gets a D. in the course (she wanted to challenge herself) and a "2" on the AP - we put her in double jeopardy by not weighting the grade? Over

Surely an accredited college course is
worthy of a weighted grade.

Pam Bird

From: JodyHMalcolm@aol.com
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 1:36 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us; dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Pending WV Education Policy No 2515

I have a great concern about the continued dummying down of our students as the State School Board makes changes to its policies.

First, you lowered the grading scale. Why didn't you raise it and make all schools accountable for excellence?

Now, Policy No. 2515 directly "lowers the bar" of success across the state of WV. Some counties in WV cannot afford to or don't have enough teachers to teach honors courses. Instead of helping those counties, the State Department of Education feels that weighted grades should be eliminated to "level the playing field." It is a backward way, indeed, to fix the problem.

The State of West Virginia has enough problems with its educational system. Why would you would intentionally harm those students with the possibilites of educational achievement -- those students who can better their state if they are given the tools to do so? Instead, you dummy down the educational system, so "no child will be left behind." Now, no child will get ahead.

Mass education for the masses is not the answer. Please reconsider affecting advanced classes for not only the high schools, but the middle schools, as well.

4/11/03

Dear Dr. Paine:

I am very upset with this new change in law. Children who are motivated to take Honor's classes should be rewarded. If there is a problem with some schools not meeting standards for "Honors" classes, then this should be rectified school by school rather than punishing the whole state.

Both my daughter's have attended George Washington High School and have been very challenged in the Honors courses. One of them is not very self-motivated. She would not have taken Honors classes if there had not been a grade differential. Because of the challenging classes, she is doing well her freshman year at University of Maryland.

I've always understood that the Honors courses were initiated in the first place to keep a student who has a very easy schedule from becoming a valedictorian of a graduating class. How will this issue be addressed? What about the rural schools who will not have access to AP and IB courses as does GW or South Charleston. What about students who excel in the classroom but are not good test takers?

I very humbly ask you to reconsider this new law and the consequences for students who are not the upper echelon of the IQ but who are very smart and motivated.

Dear Dr. Paine:

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I very humbly ask you to reconsider this new law and the consequences for students who are not the upper echelon of the IQ but who are very smart and motivated.

Monica Hatfield

304-345-4954

Pam Bird

From: Stevens, Debbie [DStevens@cvty.com]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 4:14 PM
To: 'pbird@access.k12.wv.us'
Subject: Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Debbie Stevens

Address: 1538 Bridge Road, Charleston, WV 25314

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General.

Â§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

Â§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

This proposal will serve to discourage our more inquisitive students from taking the more challenging classes. The classes are more challenging and should therefore be graded on a different level from other classes. The fear of pulling down their GPA and it's effect on college placement will be a deterrent for students.

Â§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Â§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine

Deputy State Superintendent

West Virginia Department of Education

Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330

126CSR37

Debbie Stevens

Manager Government Programs

Carelink Health Plans

304.561.6911 Phone

304.348.2948 Fax

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Pam Bird

From: Thomas A Heywood [tomheymelsim@juno.com]

Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 4:46 PM

To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us

Subject: Uniform grading system comment response

POLICY 2515

SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual: Melody A. Simpson

Address: 21 Carriage Road, Charleston, WV, 25314

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General.

Â§126-37-2. Purpose.

4/14/03

Â§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points.**Â§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.****Â§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.**

Please do not do this! Why discourage students from taking the more challenging honors courses by removing any incentive they might have to take them? If a student will receive the same quality points for an Honors English class as they will for a regular English class, why on earth would a student wish to subject him/herself to the more rigorous class for no benefit? While we can hope some students would take them anyway to challenge themselves, we must accept that students must look at their college prospects and how their grades will look on their college applications. It's easier to get an A in a regular class than in an Honors class, and most students will therefore opt for the regular class. The result? Our students will be less well-prepared for college because they've taken easier courses!

My understanding is that at least one reason behind this proposed change is to "level the playing field" with respect to the Promise scholarships, so students taking the weighted classes do not have an advantage over students for whom weighted grades are not an option. But why level the playing field by lowering the standards? You would be better off to require all schools to weight the grades of honors classes, or to require all schools to offer weighted honors level classes to their students (not that I am necessarily suggesting this, but it would send a better message). With all this "no child left behind" legislation coming from the federal government, this just strikes me as going completely the wrong direction for West Virginia.

Please, allow honors classes to receive weighted grades, so students will have an incentive to challenge themselves and take them! This will better help prepare our students for college, which is the goal we all share for our students.

4/14/03

Pam Bird

From: Gerry's Mail [A5006@worldshare.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2003 5:00 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: proposed policy 2515

Dear Mr. Paine,

My child is a freshman at Capital High School where he is enrolled in Honor courses. He has wonderful teacher's! Although the work is challenging and far above what is expected in regular classes he has excelled! I believe one of the reason's he has excelled is the atmosphere in the classroom! In general the student's who take these course's want to learn!! But also be rewarded with weighted grades for their effort!! He has enrolled in Honor classes for next year but will drop these courses if this proposed policy goes thru!! We need to do what's best for the children and not penalize them for wanting to learn and excel at their own level! By not offering this incentive the children are left behind, because most children will drop these courses! As a parent I want to do what's best for my child and motivate and challenge him to learn all he can but also reward him for doing so!

Ms. Thompson

4/14/03

Pam Bird

From: Reeser, Dennis (DK) [reeserdk@dow.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2003 4:11 PM
To: 'pbird@access.k12.wv.us'
Cc: 'dstewart@access.k12.wv.us'
Subject: Rejection of WV education policy 2515

As parents of two young adults who either have taken or are currently taking honors classes in high school, we do not support the proposal to reduce weighted grades currently received in honor's classes to non-weighted grades.

We believe only giving non-weighted credit to honors class grades will deter students considering these type classes. Better students wish to accept the challenge of honor classes, but are very aware that lower grades have the potential to prevent them from attending their college of choice. Weighting honor class grades significantly reduces this concern for students and is supportive of the main goals in student education: fostering an environment in which students can reach their maximum potential and preparing students to compete in the world after graduation.

Your support to reject this proposal and allow schools to continue their policy of weighting grades for honor classes is requested.

Yours very truly,

Denis and Diana Reeser
1841 Devondale Circle
Charleston, WV 25314

Pam Bird

From: Atrouble1961@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2003 5:42 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us; dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: policy 2515

I oppose to the policy no.2515.If this polcy passes my daughter may not academically challenge herself in AP classes, because she may fail to receive the Promise Scholarship. Thank You ,
Anita Vance

Pam Bird

From: LGeronilla@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2003 6:34 PM

To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us; dstewart@access.k12.wv.us; Balustrade@aol.com; Kary1000@aol.com

Subject: My vote against part of Policy 2515 - not weighting honors classes.

Dear Dept of Education,

I am a psychologist and mother of four of which two have been in the KCS gifted programs.

I was deeply upset to hear that you are considering not weighting Honor Classes. I want to say that this will not lead to the outcome that we want which is to motivate our students to their best efforts.

Honor students might not be motivated to risk a lower grade in a difficult class which is unweighted, for a low grade would drop their GPA and threaten their chances for a Promise Scholarship.

My vote is to reject this part of Policy 2515 (section 126-37-5).

Thank you for listening and changing this policy.

Linda S. Geronilla, Ph.D.

Psychologist

Mother of four

4/14/03

Pam Bird

From: KayD1223@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, April 13, 2003 9:41 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Weighted Grades

Dear Mr. Paine,

I am a student at George Washington High School in Charleston, WV. I am concerned with this whole issue about taking away weighted grades. Although the policy will not affect me, it would affect my younger sister who is a sixth grader at John Adams Middle School.

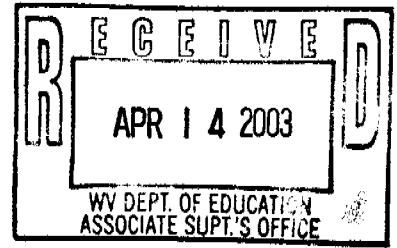
I have a few concerns. If a person wouldn't get weighted grades in an honors class, I believe he or she would not be motivated to take a class that he or she would have to work harder in. He or she would just take "the easy way out" because they would be receiving the same amount of credit as they would receive in a regular class.

If a student applied to a college, and that college looked at weighted GPA instead of unweighted, the students with the weighted GPA would have a better chance of getting accepted. This wouldn't be fair for a WV student who may be smarter, but didn't get accepted because he or she had a lower GPA.

I can think of one advantage to this policy. Since AP and IB classes would still be weighted, students may take honors classes so they can be in an AP or IB class. Getting a weighted grade in this class would be a reward for working harder in the honors class(es).

I hope my letter has influenced your choice in some way. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kayla Donathan
Freshman, George Washington High School
Charleston WV



126CSR37
POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Jeff Moore

Address: 3 hermitage rd
Charleston, wv

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

The scale should be 90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, 59 and below F
This is a much more flexible scale and will reward the students efforts more fairly on a greater variety of tests commonly used. All scales are relative but making good grades more difficult to obtain only discourages students while those who do obtain them are not nationally recognized for efforts. I hope the fear of overburdening the promise scholarship fund is not a factor. We should be helping our children get good grades not making it more difficult.

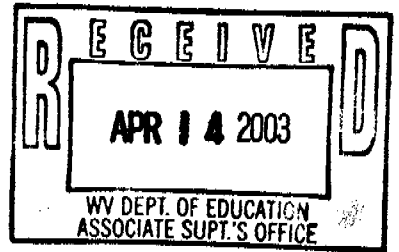
§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education**



126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Dana Humphreys / Herbert Hoover High School

Address: 3220 Thorfare Rd
Clendenin WV 25045

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Either all current Honors level courses should be weighted, or NONE (including AP and IB)

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

Pam Bird

From: JMSBR@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2003 10:53 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us; dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: policy 2515

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal to eliminate "weighting" of honors classes. The current system allows students who challenge themselves by taking honors courses to be rewarded by their success, and not be penalized if they bite off more than they can chew. By eliminating the weighting of honors courses, students will be less likely to take the challenge of the honors course for fear that a lower grade will drop the GPA and threaten their eligibility for scholarships, such as the Promise.

I urge you to reject the proposed change and keep honors courses weighted. I am the parent of 5 daughters, the eldest of who is to graduate with honors from GW this spring.

Thank you,
James Barber
342-4616

Pam Bird

From: Mark & Joanne Fawcett [fawcett1@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2003 9:48 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Cc: mfawcett@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comments on Policy 2515

Dr. Paine:

Please accept this comment form by way of e-mail. I assume that since your name was listed as an e-mail link on the bottom of the comment page, that it is permissible to submit comments by e-mail. I had previously submitted comments to Dr. Luff during the first comment period, but since he has since retired, I decided I should comment again during the second comment period.

POLICY 2515

**SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003
Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Mark Carl Fawcett

**Address: Guidance Office -- Magnolia HS, 601 Maple Ave.,
New Martinsville, WV 26155 ((304) 455-1990 Ext. 17**

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General.

I have been a school counselor in WV public high schools for the past 27 years. I am speaking against mandatory weighted grades for AP and IB courses in WV high schools. Wetzel County schools used weighted grades from the period of 1990 to 1998 and we abandoned them at time because of the following problems:

- 1. Students were manipulating their schedules and transcripts in order to minimize the number of non-weighted classes they would take to increase the effect on cumulative GPA of the weighted classes. Sometimes, they would drop a class in which they were making an A because it was not weighted.**
- 2. Students that were from families with more money took more AP classes in order to increase their GPA. Even though they were required to take the AP course exam in order to receive the weighted grade, since the AP exam scores do not come back to the**

4/15/03

school until the end of June (well after graduation), they would not take the tests seriously and therefore scored poorly. They still however got the weighted grade on their transcript.

3. Most scholarship competitions, including the National Merit, and most colleges require student cumulative GPA to be reported as non-weighted. This would require a separate hand calculation for students that took weighted grade classes. This is true of the Promise Scholarship and the WV Higher Ed Grant now.

Â§126-37-2. Purpose.

A uniform grading policy is needed for WV high schools, but it should be the non-weighted cumulative GPA, based on a 4.0 scale, that is universally understood by schools, colleges, and scholarship agencies worldwide. If some counties also wish to generate a weighted grade scale, then they should have the option of doing that with their own resources.

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

Section 3.1 specifically states:

"or other courses that county boards of education choose pursuant to Section 4."

This tells me that a local board could decide to give weighted grades to any course that it desires. That would allow them to give their students an advantage over other counties. This statement removes the uniformity of the policy and places that discretion with the local board.

I believe that to be statistically correct, the intervals for A, B, C, and D should be equal in size. As they are stated here, the intervals are: A(8), B(6), C(10), and D(10). I see no reason for that disparity.

Â§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

I agree with this section of the policy.

Â§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

I agree that the policy should go into effect with students entering the 9th grade in 2003-2004 school year.

The statement that county boards shall issue weighted grades "only" for AP or IB courses contradicts section 3.1 of the very same policy.

Section 5.4

AP course grades are not reported to the schools until the end of June. The 2002 AP Test report for Magnolia HS was dated 6/29/02. We probably received it in the mail in July. How are you going to determine the cumulative GPA for students that took the AP test in May and graduated in May when the scores do not come back until July?

4/15/03

GPA for the Promise Scholarship and WV Higher Ed grant must be reported in March before graduation. That is just about universally true for college admission, placement in special programs, and most other scholarships. You cannot wait until July to determine if a student scored a 4 or 5 on the AP exam and therefore should get a weighted grade for that class.

I believe that mandating the use of weighted grades for any classes in WV high school would be a mistake. It will only increase the emphasis on grades and cumulative GPA when what is important is increasing learning. West Virginia has enough problems with course titles that are confusing or downright incomprehensible to out of state colleges and employers without adding more confusion by weighting certain classes and abandoning the well understood 4.0 scale.

Mark Carl Fawcett

Home:

fawcett1@charter.net -- (304) 455-1822

210 Riverside Dr. New Martinsville, WV 26155

Office:

mfawcett@access.k12.wv.us -- (304)455-1990

Magnolia HS 601 Maple Ave.

New Martinsville, WV 26155

4/15/03

Pam Bird

From: Steve Paine [spaine@access.k12.wv.us]
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2003 2:22 PM
To: Pam Bird
Subject: FW: Pending WV Education Policy No. 2515

Comment regarding Policy 2515 - Grading

-----Original Message-----

From: David Stewart [mailto:dstewart@access.k12.wv.us]
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2003 7:28 AM
To: Steve Paine
Subject: FW: Pending WV Education Policy No. 2515

Dr. David Stewart
State Superintendent of Schools
WV Department of Education
dstewart@access.k12.wv.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Brad Crouser [mailto:bradcrouser@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2003 8:16 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us; dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Pending WV Education Policy No. 2515

This is to strongly urge the rejection of proposed Policy 2515 of Sec. 126-37-5.

Honors classes should continue to be weighted.

I have two children currently taking honors classes, getting A's in them. But I can assure you that if they were not weighted, they would have taken easier courses, to maintain their grade averages. But I'm glad they have incentive to take them, because those honor classes are preparing them for college and careers. It's similar to offering a bonus to get more work from an employee; there must be some reward.

To change this policy as currently proposed will go a long way in "dumbing down" our education system in West Virginia. It will be very harmful and in opposition to stated goals of our system. It is opposed to all educational research which affirms that the foremost predictor of success in college is the rigor of the high school curriculum.

Please do not allow that to happen.

Bradley A. Crouser
1147 Emerald Road
Charleston, WV 25314

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<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/featuredemail>

Pam Bird

From: terri [underhillt@charter.net]
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2003 1:52 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Proposed Policy Change re: Weighted Grades for Honors Classes

April 12, 2003

Dear Deputy State Superintendent Paine:

I was stunned to learn that the West Virginia Board of Education is considering eliminating the use of weighted grades for honors courses. My son is currently a senior at Capital High School. During his high school years, he has taken advantage of every opportunity to enroll in honors and Advanced Placement classes. When he graduates in May, he will have taken a total of 24 honors and Advanced Placement courses. These classes have challenged him and helped him to prepare for his next step in the education process.

My son has always set high standards and goals for himself. As part of the college application process, he applied to several top schools because he believed that he was well prepared to become a contributing member of their student body. He was accepted at Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, Vanderbilt University, Lehigh University, the United States Naval Academy and the honors program at West Virginia University. In addition, he was invited to take part in a seven year BS to MD program at Drexel University. Many of these schools are considered to be among the top 40 universities in the United States. Without an opportunity to earn a weighted grade point average of 4.63, I do not believe that my son would have been considered as a suitable candidate by these institutions.

It would be a disservice to all of our state's students to discontinue weighted grade point averages for honors classes. I have observed that there are higher expectations in all aspects for students taking honors classes. In addition, it would be a disincentive for students to enroll in an honors class, which requires more challenging studies, to not be recognized with a weighted grade.

The West Virginia Board of Education should reconsider this proposed policy. I doubt that a majority of high school administrators, teachers and current honor students support this proposed policy change. Our state's future depends upon providing the best education possible to its students. Our students should be encouraged to take honors and Advanced Placement courses that challenge them and then reward them with weighted grades by recognizing their willingness to take that extra step. When these students graduate from high school and enroll in college or become part of the work force, they will be expected to be willing to take on new challenges and work hard to achieve their goals.

I currently have a son who is a freshman at Capital High School and a daughter who is completing elementary school. I believe that it is important for them to have the same opportunities. Without weighted grades for honors classes, the West Virginia Board of Education is taking a giant step backwards in education.

I would be happy to discuss this issue with you at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Teresa L. Underhill
17 Foxchase Road
Charleston, WV 25304
925-1177

cc: Dr. R Duerring, Superintended

4/15/03

**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2510: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Ohio County Schools

Address: 2203 National Road

Wheeling, WV 26003

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

1.1 – We believe that a uniform grading policy will reduce the high standards to which our parents and students have become accustomed. We want to continue to set high expectations for our students, giving them no chance to be mediocre when they can achieve much more.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

2.1 - We believe that this policy inhibits the local control that is essential to meeting the needs of each region. Our community supports our commitment to high standards as shown by the passage of many consecutive levies and bond issues. Many families in our area actively seek schools that boast high achievement and rigorous standards. Our current high standards contribute to maintaining student enrollment levels which is imperative because we are in competition with three private/ parochial high schools in our county alone, and faced with more and more parents who would home school children if the schools were not as academically rigorous as they are now.

§126-37-3. Grading Scale.

3.1 and 3.2 – Schools should be permitted to use a higher grading scale if it meets the needs of their clients. If a uniform grading scale throughout the state is imperative, then the scale should be:

94-100	A
87-93	B
78-86	C
70-77	D
0-69	F

Do we really want 65% to be a passing grade?

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5 Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003 -2004.

5.1 – By using only a 4.0 grading scale, we will reduce the competition for our many local scholarships. The honor of becoming class valedictorian will be decreased.

5.2 - We support the use of weighted grades for AP and IB courses. We support weighted grades for honors courses as well, because there is no incentive to take more difficult courses if weighting cannot be used to determine a student's grade.

5.4 - The test results will be supplied too late to be used in grade calculations.

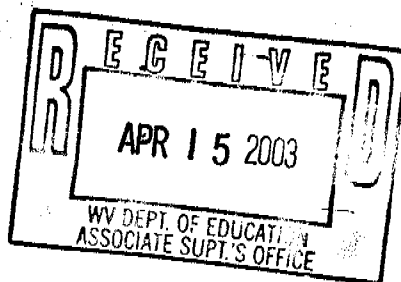
§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization:

(on behalf of students at Capital High School
Karawha County Schools

Address:

5010 Washington Street West
Charleston, WV 25313

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

I agree that there must be a uniform grading scale for all courses used in calculating grade point averages for high school graduation. There must be uniformity between counties!

§126-37-2. Purpose.

The ^{same} grading scale should be a requirement for all WV public schools!

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

Adopt a standard grading scale. If colleges in WV use 90-100 - schools should do this as well. Levels 3-12.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

So, the last weighted grades and quality points as we ~~now~~ know it is 2007. Beginning 2003-2004 - regular Honors Students are left out of weighted grade opportunities. This is unacceptable!

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Why are you ^{totally} disregarding the quality and quantity of work required for honors classes? General course work is offered for students who cannot cope with the rigors of honors. Honors students are better prepared for higher education. Honors classes deserve the same quality points as those available to AP and I.B.S. students

§126-37-6. Severability.

Students should not RETURN TO:

have to pay to take

national tests for weighted credit.

Does this imply that

a student who fails this

course, receives regular high school credit, or no credit?

Dr. Steven L. Paine

Deputy State Superintendent

West Virginia Department of Education

Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360

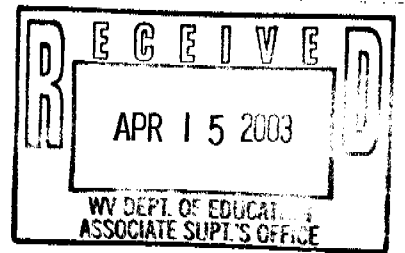
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330

pbird@access.k12.wv.us

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System



Individual/Organization: Victor Gaglio

Address: 510 Linden Road
Charleston, WV. 25314

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General.

Â§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

How does this compare with other states or private schools? I moved from PA. in 1997. Grade scale there was a 10 pt system:

- A 90-100
- B 80-90
- C 70-80
- D 60-70

When WV kids compete on GPA with kids from other states, is it a level playing field?

Â§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

Â§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

I oppose this section as it is currently written. What about schools that have established honors classes? Honors classes should qualify for weighted grades just like AP & IB classes do. The rigors of honors classes prepares our students for higher education. Disincentives associated with omitting honors classes from this section will result in our students being less-prepared for the next level of their education.

Â§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine

Deputy State Superintendent

West Virginia Department of Education

Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330

pbird@access.k12.wv.us

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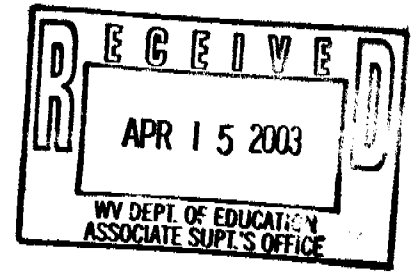
Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: GAYLE H. GAGLIO

Address:

510 LINDEN RD
CHAS. WV. 25314



Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General.

Â§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

COLLEGES USE A 10 POINT SCALE, AS DO MANY STATES.

POLICY 2515

SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM

COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Arlene Woods, Co-Chairman LSIC

John Adams Middle School, Kanawha County

Address: Home: 7 Shamblin Place

Charleston, WV 25314

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General.

Â§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

Â§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

Â§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

The elimination of weighted grades and quality points is tantamount to the extinction of honors courses. Participation in a course that requires greater depth and intensity without incentive is both foolish and potentially risky to a student's GPA. I believe this policy is a move to eliminate honors courses in order to integrate high and low achievers.

This change in policy appears to be a move to eliminate academic tracking on the high school level. Apparently the WV Department of Education must believe that allowing the brightest students to participate in more challenging courses is somehow unfair to those students with lesser abilities. However, it would seem reasonable to believe that students learn better when curriculum is geared to individual abilities. I am not convinced that real proof exists of substantial gain by lower achieving students by exposure to these displaced higher achievers into the heterogeneous mixed classes. I believe that eliminating the weighted benefit of high school honors classes will ultimately hurt the high performing students. They will require extra work to keep from being bored. I don't believe it is ethical to deprive the higher achievers of a more challenging curriculum. This is in essence what this policy proposes.

Weighting honors courses is analogous to offering extra credit in a regular class and giving bonus points for the extra work. Would it not be better to focus on consistency in subject matter taught in the same course county to county. A 4.0 in one county should be the same in all counties and should reflect the same body of knowledge mastered. However, a 5.0 course should neither be "dumbed down" in content nor should it be lessened in value.

Â§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:
Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12

Pam Bird

From: Fliess Robert F [FLIESSRF@wlsc.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2003 11:55 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Unifrom Grading and other

Dear Dr. Paine,

First, let me introduce myself and then get to the points I wish to address.

I have been a resident of Ohio County for 15 years. Before moving to West Virginia, I was a high school mathematics teacher (I hold PA. permanent certification) and college instructor in the Pittsburgh area; since 1988 I have been a professor of Mathematics (also teaching education courses and supervising Mathematics student teachers) at WLSC; one daughter is in ninth grade at Wheeking Park, and the other daughter is in sixth grade at Warwood School.

For the past few months I have heard rumors that the Ohio County Schools were thinking of eliminating weighted grades for honor's courses. Today I discovered that this was a state initiative. Since you have heard the arguments, I will not present them. But, as a parent, professional educator, and citizen of West Virginia I want you to know that I sincerely hope that this initiative does NOT become a new "rule". I hope that when this change in policy is officially discussed, that you will inform the Board that there is at least one citizen that is against this.

Since I have your attention there are two other (related) matters that I wish to discuss. The WVBOE has decided to stop giving the CATS every year and to go to yearly testing using a test more suited for, and designed by, West Virginians. I feel this is a mistake. It is bad enough that yearly tests of this nature are given, but now there will be little weight outside of West Virginia for the individual students. At least a student could say, and use for college admission, that he/she scored in the nth percentile on the California Achievement Test. Now a student can say that he/she scored in the nth percentile on the WV Achievement Test. This will have very little meaning to colleges outside of West Virginia. Of course, it is possible that this was one of the reasons for the change.

Also, in regards to the new test, why does there have to be a pilot program this year? Students have already lost 10, 20, 30 days to cancellations and delays, and four or five days to CATS--now they have to lose four or five more days to a pilot program. The schools should be trying to make-up lost instructional time, not take more away.

Please feel free to contact me for discussion on any of these matters, and other matters as well. I do hope I receive a response.

Thank you,

Robert Fliess
402 Pineview Drive
West Liberty, WV 26074
(home) 336-7132
(office) 336-8048

Pam Bird

From: kathy barnett [kathyb53@charter.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2003 6:46 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Section126-37-5

Mr. Paine, I am writing to protest the changes in the honors classes and weighted grades. My oldest son will be a senior next fall. He is an unmedicated, very disciplined student with ADD who struggles for hours each evening to complete his homework in honors, weighted classes. Without the weighting, why struggle so hard to achieve? Without the weighted grades, he would not have worked so hard to take honors classes because normal scale grading might endanger receiving a Promise scholarship. Without Promise, neither of my boys will be able to afford college.

My youngest son will be a 9th grade high school student next fall. He is already scheduled for honors English and History. If this change takes place, I will immediately cancel that schedule to move him into regular classes. He's very bright, scored high enough in early 8th grade on an SAT to qualify for programs of the Johns Hopkins Talented Youth program. He NEEDS advanced classes. But without the weighted grades, his GPA may suffer and again, put Promise at risk. Please reconsider. Kathy Barnett

Pam Bird

From: Sandra [tenacious48@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2003 7:57 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Weighted Classes

Dear To WHom It May Concern,

I certainly hope that further consideration will be made to discontinuing the practice having a weighted grading system for honors and advance placement classes. It seems to me that the current policy offers incentives to further motivate excellent students and to challenge them. To remove the weighted grade system removes those incentives, and in fact may make students feel that there is no point in taking "harder" classes, and that doing so may even endanger their grade point average. This is a bad idea, and I hope it will be rethought. Thank you.

Sandra Barnett

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[The New Yahoo! Search](#) - Faster. Easier. Bingo.

4/18/03

Pam Bird

From: PAD612@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2003 10:28 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: section 126-37-5 Policy 2515

Hello,

I am the mother of a current 8th grade student who will be attending George Washington High School next year.

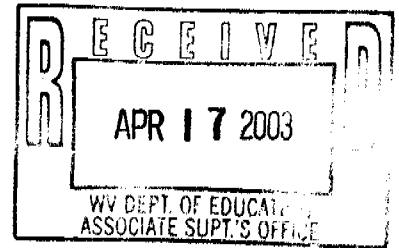
I am totally against the policy that will eliminate weighted grades for honors classes.

I believe kids benefit so much from taking challenging classes and getting rewarded for their hard work. If weighted grades are removed, this will totally harm the very intelligent and motivated children. They will find it very difficult to get in to top notch colleges with out the weighted grades. Therefore I totally reject uniform grading for regular and honors classes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Manonmani Padmanaban

4/18/03



126CSR37

**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Vinhao Long / Nitro High

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

TO: Committee reviewing the Uniform Grading System
FROM: Yinghao Long
RE: Concerns regarding the policy
DATE: April 15, 2003

Policy 2515 regarding the uniform grading system takes the wrong approach to “leveling the playing field.” Leveling the playing field does not mean that we should cripple the best players; it means that we should provide every student with the same educational opportunities. Every school or at least a majority of the schools in West Virginia offers honors courses. Students decide if they want to take them. Honors students should be rewarded for their motivation and hard work with a weighted grade. If an average student feels this practice is unfair, he or she should enroll in an honors class.

Some opponents of weighted grades use the policy of “no child left behind” to justify their opinion. Unfortunately, this practice favors apathetic freeloaders and leaves the bright scholars to fend for themselves. According to the new grading scale, an A will be 93%, just 1% different from the current standard of 94. However, a D is now only 65%, a whopping 5% change. With the extermination of weighted grades and quality points, what will stop a student from choosing an easier average class over a challenging honors course in order to maintain his or her GPA?

For example, at Nitro High School, there are three classes of Travel WV, generally referred to as a “dump class” because of its lack of real assignments. However, all five classes are full every year while there is only one AP Calculus class and there only thirteen people in it. With the commencement of the new guidelines, even more people would enroll in these “dump classes.”

Of course, some people believe that with the elimination of weighted grades and quality points, students will stop being so concerned about their grades and instead take courses that interest them. However, this will likely have the opposite effect. Some students may find courses such as honors 20th Century History mentally stimulating, but they may also feel that it is too difficult to get an A in the class. Therefore, the students will take the average class to keep their 4.0 GPA. The belief that "the grade is all" has been ingrained in our psyche from day one. Even if we change the policy now, it is too late to change society's, and colleges', emphasis on high school GPA.

Furthermore, Policy 2515 will result in unfair class ranks for students with a more demanding schedule. For example, one student may take honors U.S. History and receive a B while another may take Guitar and get an A. If all other grades were identical, the student who took Guitar would graduate with greater honors and a higher class rank than other students who opted to take a more difficult course.

If the weighted grades create bias in the selection of Promise Scholarship candidates, why not simply remove the weighted grade requirement from the scholarship? The new standard could be an *unweighted* 3.0 GPA instead of producing mass confusion with the new policy and eliminating honors courses. Surely Occam's Razor can also apply to the West Virginia educational system.

Respectfully submitted,

Ynghas Long



Webster County High School

Jim Marsh, Principal
Paula Vanney, Vice Principal
Jonny Young, Vice Principal

1 HIGHLANDER DRIVE
HUBBARD CLADE, WV 26266
PHONE: (304) 226-5772 • FAX: (304) 226-5792

Linda Dyer, Counselor
Thomas Bruckett, Counselor
Janel Beckell, Secretary
Stella Smallwood, Secretary

TO: Dr. Steven L. Paine

FROM: Jim Marsh

DATE: 4-16-03

TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 3

*Please acknowledge receipt of
this fax. Thank you.
Fax # (304) 226 5792*

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: *Mr. Wen, AP instructor, Webster County High School*

Address: *1 Highlander Dr
Upperglade, WV 26266
Home: 132 Riverview Dr.
Helston Springs, WV 26288*

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General. - *None.*

Â§126-37-2. Purpose. - *Motivation issue If this is being done primarily to get PROMISE issues, this will not effectively be a truly uniform school system of grading Areas in which wide leeway will continue fall into writing, project performance and individual teachers assessments of them.*

Â§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. *This lowers expectations for students who might already tend to mediocrity while making no change for the majority of above average students (A/B), since honor and other difficult classes remain exempt under the AP and IB weighted scale.*

Â§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

Since students cannot take these courses until the junior year, this is too long of a wait. Weighing grades and grandfathering juniors would be more appropriate as it will continue to encourage students to enroll in advanced placement courses. Therefore if adopted weighting should begin as soon as a student elects to enroll in a class that qualifies.

Â§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

See above.

5.4 - *Students in grade 12 who take the AP test in May of their senior year are not notified of their scores until late July; therefore, computations would not occur until after PROMISE awards and graduation. This is not practical.*

Â§126-37-6. Severability.

No comment

RETURN TO:

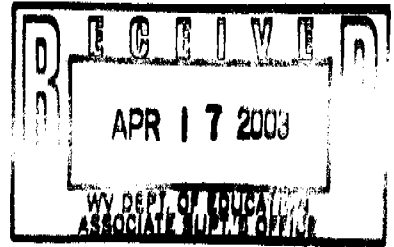
Dr. Steven L. Paine

Deputy State Superintendent

West Virginia Department of Education

Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East



126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Colonel David F. Slaughter, Nitro High

Address: 1300 Park Ave
Nitro, WV. 25143

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

Okay

§126-37-2. Purpose.

Okay

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

Okay

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

All Honors courses will disappear. No incentive for taking it. The challenging, difficult courses will no longer be taken. Colleges throughout the nation recognize honors classes - Honors credit with increased Quality points should remain as it is.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

(Same)

§126-37-6. Severability.

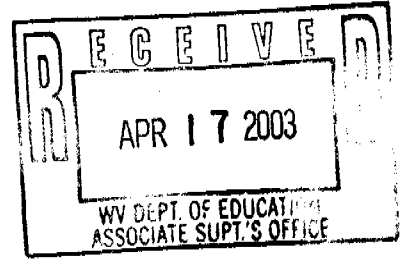
RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Steve Pauley / Nitro High School

Address: 1300 Park Avenue, Nitro, WV 25143

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General. *I think it is a good idea to have a state-wide standardized grading scale/system.*

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

I feel the proposed grading scale is fine.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

The weighted grades and Honor Courses should not be phased-out. All schools should not be reduced to meet the standards of some. The opposite should be the mean.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

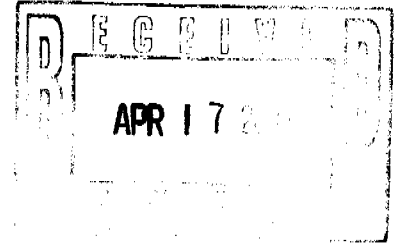
We should strive to get our schools all to the same level, a higher level. Some school may not offer honors classes, that is what we need to change instead of doing away with honors courses and weighted grades.

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
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126CSR37
POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: ~~Mary Lu MacCorkle/Nitro High School~~

Address: 1300 Park Avenue, Nitro, WV 25143

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

The grading scale that has been proposed here is appropriate for use with courses that are not honors, IB, AP or college level. It would be good for the entire state to have a consistent definition for each grade designation.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

No problem

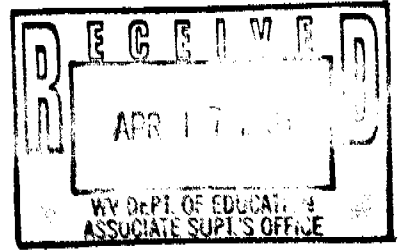
§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

This recommendation is going to be extremely detrimental to those counties where honors course are already weighted. Our students have been very clear about the fact that they will not take more challenging courses without the extra weighting point. It is also unfair to pull out 2 small programs which are not available in every school to award weighting points to and not reward college level courses or honors courses in general. This is a very harmful proposal.

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent**



126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Barbara Christo

Address: 102 Dawn Hts
Scott Depot, W Va 25560

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

Policy acceptable

§126-37-2. Purpose.

Good idea

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

Acceptable

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

- Splitting next grade until they graduate will be difficult to track

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

5.2 - Counties should be allowed to continue weighted grades for Honors Classes as well as AP and IB courses.

This section of the policy is punitive. Counties are being punished for challenging their students. Students will not take Honors or challenging classes. They will take the easier class because the grade is the same.

~~§126-37-6. Severability.~~

A simple remedy would be to simply state that a 3.0 grade point average unweighted would be required for the Promial scholarship. Students would be on equal ground and counties

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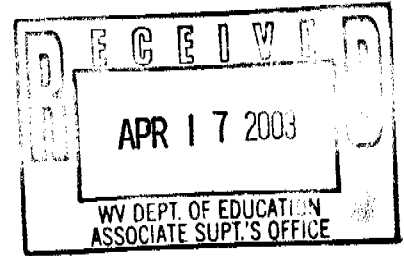
**Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us**

with aggressive and progressive courses would not be penalized.

Roopan Fischer

126CSR37

**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

I definitely believe weighted grades should remain in our school system. Having weighted grades is an incentive for students to take the tougher, more challenging classes because the weighted classes can help their class rank. Instead of taking away such a positive incentive in the school system that pushes students to work harder, the Promise Scholarship should be based on an unweighted G.P.A., which will allow students to continue taking weighted classes, yet give all students an equal

§126-37-6. Severability.

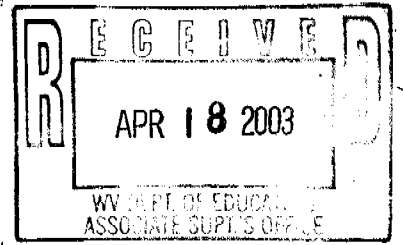
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Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us

Ultimately, weighted grades separate the average student from those willing to work harder and take the more difficult classes.

playing field, whether or not their school has weighted classes.

Changing the standard of the Promise Scholarship is a much better solution to achieving the same results as taking away weighted grades. Many students benefit from weighted classes and more students are introduced to college-level material, which will give them future success. Schools can still be compared using unweighted grades while individual schools keep weighted grades as an incentive.



126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Rhode Fitzsimmons / Tyler Consolidated High

Address: 1993 Silver Knight Drive

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

(5.2) *The Weighted Grades Policy should include additional honors level courses that are extremely rigorous - as determined by each COUNTY,*

§126-37-6. Severability.

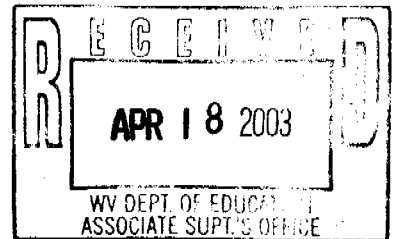
RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0330
pbird@access.k12.wv.us

126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Janet L. Frates
Address: Tyler Consolidated High School
1993 Silver Knight Drive, Sistersville, WV
26175

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

A uniform grading system will not effect uniform teaching or uniform grading of the same material among teachers.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

I believe that lowering the grading scale for classes while raising the scale for standardized tests is a contradiction.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

Permitting weighted grades to some classes but not others would result in two grading systems at the same time; weighted grades for upperclassmen but not freshmen.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

I do not agree that two quality points should be given for a grade of 65-74% in a weighted class. It would reward students for mediocrity.

§126-37-6. Severability.

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126CSR37

POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM

Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Janet Kalbaugh, Counselor

Address: Keyser High School
Rt. 4, Box 110, Keyser, WV 26726

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

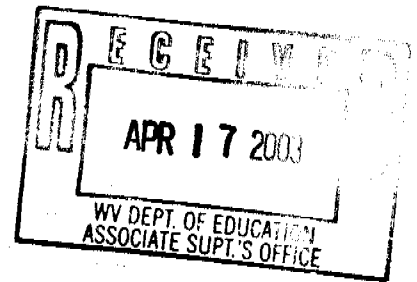
§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

Weighted grades should also be issued for high school students taking college courses through a state college or university. We should be encouraging students to enroll in challenging curriculum by rewarding with a weighted grade. College courses, taken while in high school, are good transitional courses, but students and parents will be hesitant to enroll for these courses if not having a weighted grade might put the PROMISE in jeopardy.

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**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003. *Weighted grades are a positive incentive for students taking difficult classes. Eliminating the incentive would cause a drastic decrease in the number of students willing to take these classes. Instead of eliminating the weighted grades altogether, ~~to~~ allow those schools using weighted grades to continue doing so. These students also*

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

§126-37-6. Severability.

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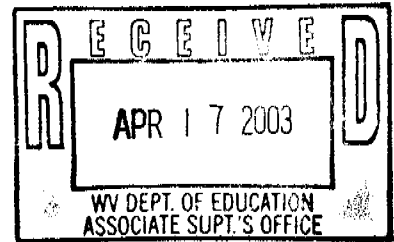
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I have an unweighted GPA neither use that to determine PROMISE eligibility or create different standards for different ~~counties~~ counties based on their existing scales. This will encourage students to challenge themselves in taking more difficult classes.

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Ben Sanger

Address: P. O. Box 171 Nitro, WV 25143

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Taking away weighted grades on a statewide scale will not only draw West Virginia schools backwards, but will discourage all students to take any higher, more challenging classes.

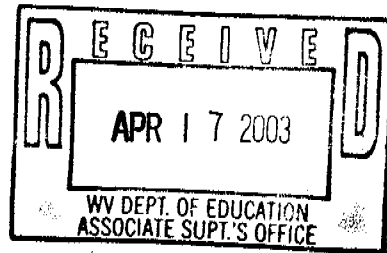
§126-37-6. Severability.

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Leona Elizabeth Tyree ^{student at} (Nitro High School)

Address: 219 2nd Street North St. Albans, WV 25177

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

Lets just make it easier for people that don't want to work that hard pass a class. Let a student that works less than another get an "A", and be made equal in the eyes of others.

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

• §126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

If there is a problem with making all the counties equal for the requirements of the Promise Scholarship - why lower the quality of the county's schools. The Promise Scholarship Committee could take the non-weighted grades for the requirements, and keep the weighted grades for college applications. Because of other counties the state is going to cause counties with the weighted-grades program to lower their education standards so that it will make high school education easier, and it will cause the students to not want to work hard, and to lessen their work ethic. So basically - sorry students because

§126-37-6. Severability.

there are other counties that don't have the chance to have the honors classes you can't have them either. No way would we want to have people that know more than others we just want to make sure that Promise Scholarship Committee can make everything equal.

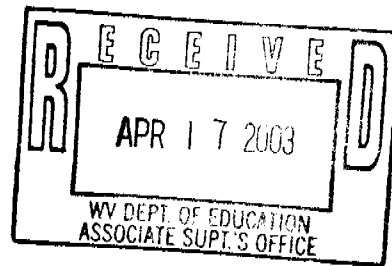
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Although the committee could just look at the non-weighted grades that the high schools have available.

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Melanie Ward, Senior @ Nitro HS

Address: 109 Glass Drive Cross Lanes, WV 25313

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Getting rid of weighted grades is a great way to get ^{honors} students to drop out of challenging classes. It's also a great way to allow students who get As in classes such as Travel WV and Foods to be ranked higher than those who get Bs in AP English and Chemistry. If the state Board of Ed. is trying to dummy down WV students as much as possible, then they have found the perfect plan. But, frankly, I can't remember a stupider idea in my entire history as a student. I'm so glad I'm getting out of WV public education now-- for reasons such as this policy. I guess it hasn't occurred to

§126-37-6. Severability.

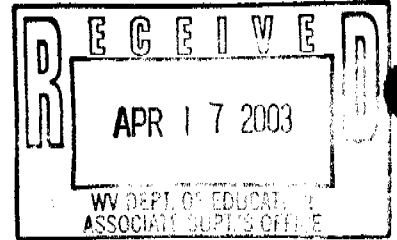
RETURN TO: you to simply drop the requirements for the PROMISE scholarship to

Dr. Steven L. Paine
Deputy State Superintendent a 3.0 unweighted GPA, a solution that would both level the playing field for all students as well as continue to encourage honors students to take honors classes.

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Krista Gibson/Nitro High School

Address: 1300 Park Ave.
Nitro, WV 25143

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

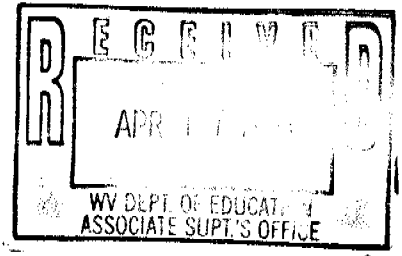
Weighted classes allow for separation of students who care more about classes than others. Often students who care about grades take weighted classes in order to receive more credit. If this system is eliminated, there is no doubt that the "Honors" and "AP" classes will

§126-37-6. Severability.

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

 §126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

 §126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. I believe weighted grades and honors classes should remain in West Virginia schools. If weighted grades are taken away how is that going to help seniors receive good scholarships for college? Students need to be challenged instead of dropping the standards for them to succeed. Instead of getting rid of all weighted grades for the sake of the Promise Scholarship, why not just look at everyone's unweighted grades ~~but~~ keep honors classes? West Virginia students need weighted grades so ^{and} they can

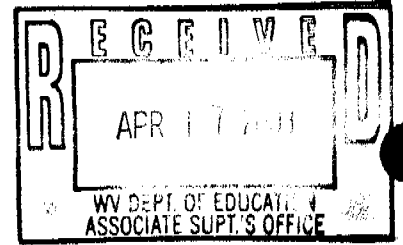
 §126-37-6. Severability. compete, for acceptance and scholarship from the college they want to go to, with students from other states. If a student from West Virginia with a 4.0 GPA and student from Ohio with a 4.25 GPA both want to go to the same school and compete for the same scholarship, the school is more than likely going to pick the student from Ohio with a 4.25 because his GPA is higher. Keep weighted grades in West Virginia!!

RETURN TO:

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**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: John Masci. Student at Nitro High
Address: 5312 Melwood Drive
Cross Lanes, WV

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Eliminating weighted grades will have the following repercussions:

- Lower student participation in the most rigorous and fulfilling courses.
- An increase of students taking "fluff" or easy courses.
- Students who take all honors courses or the most difficult courses

~~§126-37-6. Severability.~~

Cont. } finishing with a significantly lower class rank than those students who take courses of little or no academic rigor.

RETURN TO:

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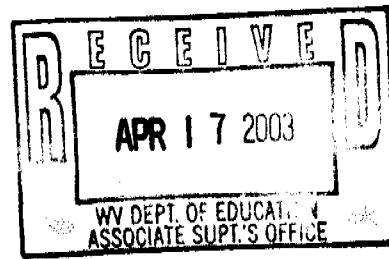
Overall, this move will decrease the overall quality of education students receive.

Students will not take a difficult course and endanger their class rank or GPA.

● Ideally, students would be self-motivated, but in reality, far too much (scholarships, college) is riding on tangible class rank and GPA. Please do not take away the only reward students who challenge themselves academically receive.

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Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Elizabeth Wilson

Address: 2729 Lakeview Dr.
St. Albans, WV 25177

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004. Weighted grades are an incentive for high schoolers to take weighted or honors classes. Without the extra points on their GPA, students may opt to take all average classes and not challenge themselves because they would get lower grades in harder classes and ruin their GPAs. Also, without weighted grades, average students would be at the top of the rankings.

§126-37-6. Severability.

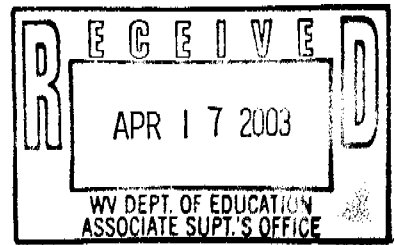
RETURN TO:

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37

UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

If weighted grades are taken away from students then less children will take honors or upper level classes. No one would want to take the AP classes if they didn't get credit for it. The kids taking all average classes would end up top of their class instead of those getting B's in AP classes.

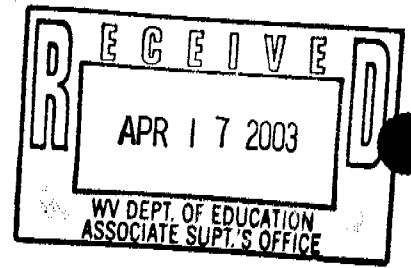
§126-37-6. Severability.

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**POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM**



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

The whole problem is the Promise Scholarship. Instead of bringing everyone down, the people should look at the unweighted grades instead of weighted grades to decide on applicants for the Promise.

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

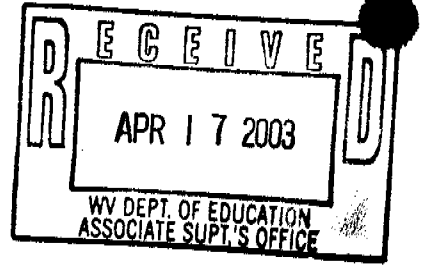
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→ It's not fair to those who want to challenge themselves in honors/AP classes and not reward them with the extra point. You should try to challenge students not discourage them from taking the honors classes.

Drew
McClachen

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: _____

Address: _____

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

Instead of lowering the grading scale and dropping weighted grades, perhaps the rest of the state should raise their level, instead of lowering the others. Students who take the advanced courses should be rewarded for their ~~status~~ level of classes. It is ridiculous to think the state will lower its level instead of trying to raise it.

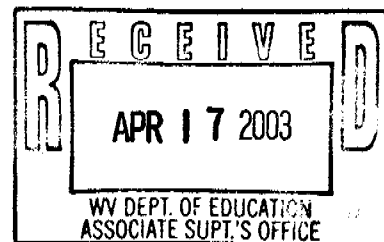
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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Blaine C. Hess Jackson County Schools

Address: P.O. Box 770 Ripley, WV 25271

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

OVER FOR COMMENTS

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

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

In prohibiting the weighting of grades for dual credit college classes, the impact on the number of students attending college course during high school will likely decline.

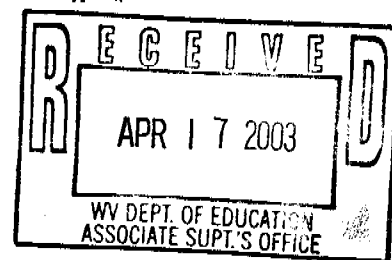
5.4.1 & 5.4.2 Since the State Superintendent may restrict the weighting of AP and IB courses until ALL counties in the state pay for the testing, it is likely that these courses may not be weighted. This further discourages students from taking these high level courses. Additionally, provision 5.4.2 which establishes a performance level on the tests is not feasible since the test results are not available until well after seniors have graduated.

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

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POLICY 2515
SERIES 37
UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2510: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: Ohio County Schools

Address: 2203 National Road

Wheeling, WV 26003

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

§126-37-1. General.

1.1 - We believe that a uniform grading policy will reduce the high standards to which our parents and students have become accustomed. We want to continue to set high expectations for our students, giving them no chance to be mediocre when they can achieve much more.

§126-37-2. Purpose.

2.1 - We believe that this policy inhibits the local control that is essential to meeting the needs of each region. Our community supports our commitment to high standards as shown by the passage of many consecutive levies and bond issues. Many families in our area actively seek schools that boast high achievement and rigorous standards. Our current high standards contribute to maintaining student enrollment levels which is imperative because we are in competition with three private/ parochial high schools in our county alone, and faced with more and more parents who would home school children if the schools were not as academically rigorous as they are now.

§126-37-3. Grading Scale.

3.1 and 3.2 - Schools should be permitted to use a higher grading scale if it meets the needs of their clients. If a uniform grading scale throughout the state is imperative, then the scale should be:

94-100	A
87-93	B
78-86	C
70-77	D
0-69	F

Do we really want 65% to be a passing grade?

§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

§126-37-5 Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003 -2004.

5.1 – By using only a 4.0 grading scale, we will reduce the competition for our many local scholarships. The honor of becoming class valedictorian will be decreased.

5.2 - We support the use of weighted grades for AP and IB courses. We support weighted grades for honors courses as well, because there is no incentive to take more difficult courses if weighting cannot be used to determine a student's grade.

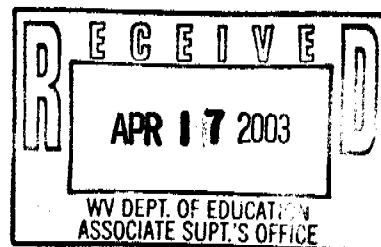
5.4 - The test results will be supplied too late to be used in grade calculations.

§126-37-6. Severability.

RETURN TO:

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Deputy State Superintendent
West Virginia Department of Education
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360
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UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM
COMMENT RESPONSE FORM



Comment Period Ends: April 18, 2003

Directions: Please use this form to comment on proposed Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Individual/Organization: *Sue Klein, AP instructor, Webster County High School*

Address: *1 Highlander Dr.
Upperglade, WV 26266
Home: 132 Riverview Dr.
Helston Springs, WV 26288*

Comments on Policy 2515: Uniform Grading System

Â§126-37-1. General. - *None*

Â§126-37-2. Purpose. - *Motivation issue. If this is being done primarily to get PROMISE issues, this will not effectively be a truly uniform school system of grading. Areas in which wide leeway will continue fall into writing, project performance and individual teachers assessments of them.*

Â§126-37-3. Grading Scale and Quality Points. *This lowers expectations for students who might already tend to mediocrity while making no change for the majority of above average students (A/B), since honor and other difficult classes remain exempt under the AP and IB weighted scale.*

Â§126-37-4. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or Before the School Year 2002-2003.

Since students cannot take these courses until the junior year, this is too long of a wait. Weighting grades and grandfathering juniors would be more appropriate as it will continue to encourage students to enroll in advanced placement courses. Therefore if adopted weighting should begin as soon as a student elects to enroll in a class that qualifies.

Â§126-37-5. Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004.

See above.

5.4 - *Students in grade 12 who take the AP test in May of their senior year are not notified of their scores until late July; therefore, computations would not occur until after PROMISE awards and graduation. This is not practical.*

Â§126-37-6. Severability.

No comment

RETURN TO:

Dr. Steven L. Paine

Deputy State Superintendent

West Virginia Department of Education

Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 360

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Pam Bird

From: Harry Bruner [hbrunerjr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2003 7:49 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us; dstewart@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: WEIGHTED GRADING - Pending WV Education Policy No. 2515

Our four children have benefited from the current weighted grading policy. It addresses student academic risk and parent financial risk. Students can reasonably risk taking harder and challenging courses, and their parents do not inordinately risk financial loss of scholarship funds.

At George Washington High School (GWHS), class enrollment in Mr. Dodd's honors chemistry, Dr. Crouch's anatomy class and honors math courses would drop 95% and be discontinued in our opinion.

We use both unweighted and weighted grades for our performance review. My oldest daughter is going to law school primarily because of the quality, tough courses she took at GWHS which prepared her to take tough courses in college. Please do not change the current grading policy. It is working for our four children.

Harry and Kathryn Bruner

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4/18/03

Pam Bird

From: Jayesh Shah [jbshah@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2003 8:52 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Uniform Grading System

Dear Dr. Paine:

I am a parent of a student in 8th grade in Kanawha County Public School System.

It was with great horror and shock that I read the 'Uniform Grading System'.

I think this policy punishes the students who want to acheive something. It does not encourage the students to take honor classes. As you must know, Honor classes are challenging and therefore, it is likely that students may not get the same grades in these classes as they would get in regular classes. With the new grading system, the students will be tempted to take regular classes instead of Honor classes.

This system discourages hard work. It encourages "Mediocrity".

I hope that you will listen to the opinions of many parents like me and not implement "Uniform Grading System".

Thank you.

Jayesh Shah

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4/21/03

Pam Bird

From: dplusplus@pennswoods.net
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2003 11:37 PM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Policy 2515 Uniform Grading Policy

Dear Dr. Paine,

My name is Donna Phillips. My comments to you are about the uniform grading policy. I had the privilege to speak at your February board meeting about this matter. Many of our Mineral County parents had mailed or e-mailed their concerns about these changes. On your website after that meeting there was a statement concerning this policy. The person quoted said that this would create a "level playing field". This couldn't be further from the truth. Certainly there needs to be equity for those students applying for the Promise Scholarship. Those who offer the Promise ask only that you give them equity, not that you make the scale more difficult. My concern was that you made it more difficult so that they would not have to give as many Promise Scholarships. Mr. Morganstern denied that there was any truth to that matter. In my opinion the video gambling industry could afford the additional scholarships that would be given if you changed the scale to what Mineral County presently has which is 93-100, 83-92 etc. This is difficult enough. The proposed policy suffers from a severe case of tunnel vision. Certainly there is equity in the state and therefore equity for those competing for the Promise. Where then is the equity and the "level playing field" for those students like my daughter who will be attending a local community college and competing against students with a 90-100 grading scale. In fact, the college itself has a 90-100 scale. Your proposed changes ONLY benefit those students applying for the Promise. It does not benefit those marginal students struggling just to keep their heads above water. Is it your intention to put these students at an even greater disadvantage? You are. What about those students entering middle school? You know, those 5th grade children, the 10 year old children. What about Jenna, Danny and Marc? These are my three children. You know them. Susie and Billy average student. The ones who study faithfully for tests, are prepared for class and complete homework on time. You know them, students with an average of 83 or 84%. These kids work so very hard and so do I to make the grade so to speak. You are probably thinking, so what is the big deal about 1 or 2 percent. It is a tremendously big deal. We are doing all we can do and you and those that proposed this policy don't seem to care who they hurt. Please, I am begging you to reconsider making the scale 85,75 etc. Please look at 93,83 73 etc. I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Donna L. Phillips

Donna L. Phillips
Rt. 1 Box 142
Ridgeley, WV 26753
(304)738-2137
Mineral County

Pam Bird

From: Pat [rmason@access.k12.wv.us]
Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2003 10:05 PM
To: Pam Bird
Subject: Comments on Policy 2515

I still cannot get the form filled and and e-mailed off the state website - I'm not sure what I'm doing wrong.

My comment is on 126-37-5 Weighted Grades and Quality Points for Students Entering 9th Grade In or After the School Year 2003-2004

Dual-credit college courses should have weighted grades!!! Otherwise, we will be in the position of encouraging and rewarding students for taking AP and IB courses but NOT actual dual-credit college courses! This seems to be defeating the primary purpose when we are trying to increase our college going rate!

(Is this ok, or do you want me to fax the form?)

Robert P. Mason
Assistant Superintendent
Mineral County Schools
One Baker Place
Keyser, WV 26726

4/21/03

Pam Bird

From: lforinas@access.k12.wv.us
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2003 8:25 AM
To: pbird@access.k12.wv.us
Subject: Comments on Policy 2510

In Policy 2510, sections 5.39 and 7.2.12 there is language stating that a school or school system must have 75% attendance for that day to constitute a school day. This policy assumes that we have the ability to make decisions that the parents make for their child(ren). We cannot make students come to school. We can encourage them, but we cannot force them to be here. If another day would be set for make-up, how many of those students who were absent the first time do you think would be there for the make-up day? This is crazy! Also, I believe you are superseding your role of an executive branch when you change legislation that passed both the House of Delegates and the Senate. You are negating a day that the Legislature passed as an OSE Day and forcing employees to work due to a situation that we have no control over - students attendance.