



Council for Lifelong Learning
High School Grading Scale

**Fact
Sheet**

September 2001

<p>1. What is the current high school grading scale for all Florida public high schools?</p>	<p>The current high school grading scale for all Florida public high schools is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade "A" equals 90% through 100%• Grade "B" equals 80% through 89%• Grade "C" equals 70% through 79%• Grade "D" equals 60% through 69%• Grade "F" equals 0% through 59%• Grade "I" equals 0%
<p>2. When was the original statewide public high school grading scale established?</p>	<p>In 1987, the Legislature established a statewide grading scale for all public high schools (Ch. 87-329, L.O.F.). The 1987 grading scale was as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade "A" equals 94% through 100%• Grade "B" equals 85% through 93%• Grade "C" equals 75% through 84%• Grade "D" equals 65% through 74%• Grade "F" equals 0% through 64%• Grade "I" equals 0%
<p>3. Why did the Legislature establish a statewide grading scale?</p>	<p>The legislation was motivated by a perception of unfairness— if the Broward school district set the grade of "A" as equivalent to 90 percent to 100 percent, while the Palm Beach school district set it as equivalent to 94 percent to 100 percent, some people believed that students in Broward County had an unfair advantage in seeking awards, college admission, and participating in sports.</p>
<p>4. Has the Florida public high school grading scale changed since 1987?</p>	<p>Yes, the 1997 Legislature raised the minimum for a "C" grade from 75 percent to 77 percent, the minimum for a "D" grade from 74 percent to 76 percent, and the grade for a "F" from 64 percent to 69 percent (Ch. 97-2, L.O.F.).</p> <p>The 2001 Legislature established the current grading scale which provides a spread of 10 percentage points for each letter (Ch. 2001-237 L.O.F.). The motivation for this change in the grading scale was to bring the public high school grading scale in line with the scale used by most universities and colleges in Florida and in other states. Thus, by changing the grading scale, Florida students might be able to compete more equitably for out-of-state admission and for scholarships.</p>

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<p>5. Can different weights be assigned to grades?</p>	<p>Yes, under certain circumstances. In 1995, the Legislature amended the grading system to allow school districts to exercise a weighted grading system for the purpose of class ranking.</p> <p>Additionally, the 1998 Legislature required school districts to assign the same weights to grades in academic Dual Enrollment courses as honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. This legislation leveled the playing field between dual enrollment and AP courses by ensuring that students received equivalent weighted credit for more strenuous courses.</p> <p>Lastly, the 1998 Legislature authorized the Department of Education to assign weights to certain courses when evaluating high school transcripts for Bright Futures Scholarship eligibility. This legislation removed the potential that students were motivated to take "easy" courses to earn the grades required for a scholarship, rather than challenging courses that would better prepare them for college.</p>
<p>6. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 230.23005(8), F.S. -- School board powers and duties regarding student assessment and affairs Section 232.24521, F.S. -- Report cards: end-of-the-year Section 232.2463, F.S. -- High school grading system Section 240.1163(4), F.S. -- Dual Enrollment and Advanced Placement</p>
<p>7. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education Division of Public Schools (850) 488-2601 www.firn.edu/doe</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Education Innovation (850) 488-7451</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Council for Lifelong Learning (850) 414-6694</p>