

## GRADING POLICY

Albemarle County Public Schools (“ACPS”) is committed to a balanced and equitable assessment system. Balanced assessment systems provide accurate and timely information about student learning and achievement. The crux of a balanced assessment system is equitable grading practices. Healthy grading practices encourage and support learning by helping students and teachers see that their continued efforts will result in success.

Grades (grading) are the representation of student achievement, either a letter or number score, and should accurately represent a student’s mastery of course standards. The purpose of a grade is to communicate student achievement at a point in time. Grades will be accurate, supportive of student learning, and consistent. To ensure effective communication of grades, school staff shall provide an explanation of the grading system to students and parents/legal guardians at the beginning of each school year. Schools shall communicate to parents and students on a regular basis an evaluation of the student’s progress toward meeting the academic objectives.

Assessment is gathering and interpreting information to determine where students are on a continuum of what they know, understand, and are able to do. It is the act of describing student performance, primarily for the purpose of enhancing learning. Teachers will develop balanced assessment plans that provide sufficient and useful evidence of the students’ needs, progress, and achievement.

In order for student assessment information to improve curriculum, instruction, and student learning, accurate analysis of assessment results must be followed by feedback. Teachers shall give feedback to students at various points of instruction and the students and teachers must take action that supports learning. This feedback cycle is critical for student achievement of learning targets and is part of the formative process of assessing and learning. Grades are assigned at the end of this process and represent a student’s achievement.

### ***Grading practices in the ACPS will be:***

#### Accurate

- Accurately describe student achievement of knowledge and skills demonstrated in school settings
- Align to standards for student learning
- Be separated from work habits
- Be impartial and fair, not influenced by a teacher’s implicit bias or reflective of a student’s environment
- Utilize mathematically sound calculations

43 Supportive of Student Learning

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- 45 • Reflect individual differences and rates of learning
  - 46 • Address the unique needs of special populations of students
  - 47 • Make adjustments for transitional periods (including elementary to middle and
  - 48 middle to high)
  - 49 • Encourage students to take an active role in setting goals and assessing progress
  - 50 • Foster a positive self-image for the student - Inform teaching practices and student
  - 51 learning
  - 52 • Promote practices that encourage continuous engagement in learning
  - 53 • Provide parents and students ongoing, credible, and useful feedback in a timely
  - 54 manner
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56 Consistent

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- 58 • Be consistent within and across students, teams, departments, courses, and
  - 59 schools
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61 The School Division shall create procedures to support staff in implementing this policy,  
62 and shall conduct periodic reviews with teacher and student input to ensure procedures are  
63 meeting the goals of grading accuracy, consistency, and support for student learning. These  
64 procedures shall include requirements and reasonable limitations for student reassessments, a  
65 minimum grade that differentiates between attempted and unsubmitted assignments, regulations  
66 on accepting late work from students, requirements for communication of grades and  
67 notifications of risk of failure to parents, a minimum number of assignments per marking period,  
68 and grading scales.

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70 Adopted: September 24, 2020

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72 Cross References: Albemarle County Public Schools Framework for Quality Learning

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74 IGAK, Equity Education

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76 IKB, Homework

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78 Albemarle County Public Schools Program of Studies

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