

McLean Citizens Association
Fairfax County School Grading Policy Resolution

WHEREAS, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is reviewing its grading policy; and

WHEREAS, under the current FCPS grading policy an A is 94% and above (and given 4.0 points), a B+ is 90% to 93% (and given 3.5 points), a B is 84% to 89% (and given 3.0 points), a C+ is 80% to 83% (and given 2.5 points), a C is 74% to 79% (and given 2.0 points), a D+ is 70% to 73% (and given 1.5 points), a D is 64% to 69% (and given 1.0 point), and a F is below 64% (and given 0 points); and

WHEREAS, the current FCPS policy provides an extra 0.5 points for each AP/IB class taken and no extra points for each Honors class taken; and

WHEREAS, a number of colleges use grade point cut-offs for college admissions, merit-based scholarships, and admission to honors programs; and

WHEREAS, FAIRGRADE has brought this issue to the MCA's attention; and

WHEREAS, FCPS is actively considering whether modifications to the grading point system would assist our students for college admissions, merit-based scholarships, and admission to college honors programs; and

WHEREAS, although Fauquier County grants an A at the same 94% threshold as FCPS, a number of our other neighboring school districts grant an A at a lower threshold (e.g.; Arlington County, Falls Church and Montgomery County start at 90% while Loudoun and Prince William Counties start at 93%) with some of these districts having corresponding lower thresholds for lower marks; and

WHEREAS, these neighboring school districts appear to provide extra points of 0.7 or 1.0 for each AP/IB class taken (versus 0.5 in FCPS), and some school districts provide an extra weight for Honors classes but some don't; and

WHEREAS, MCA wants to preserve the quality and rigor in our FCPS schools; and

WHEREAS, MCA wishes not to disadvantage our FCPS students so long as helping some students doesn't hurt other students; and

WHEREAS, MCA is concerned that a straight 10 point scale, with no plus or minus, could disadvantage some students at the higher end of each of the scales, and also could put a lot of pressure on both the students and teachers where a student appears to be just below the cut off for the higher grade;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association that:

1. We request that FCPS consider changing to a 10 point scale but one with plus and minus. The attached is one possibility of a grading scale given solely for illustration purposes.
2. We request that FCPS consider increasing the additional points for each AP/IB class taken, and examine whether there should be an extra weighting for Honors classes taken.

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Illustration of One Possibility for Revised FCPS Grading Scale

Grade Percentage Points

| | | |
|----|-------------|-----|
| A+ | 98% to 100% | 4.3 |
| A | 93% to 97% | 4.0 |
| A- | 90% to 92% | 3.7 |
| | | |
| B+ | 87% to 89% | 3.3 |
| B | 83% to 86% | 3.0 |
| B- | 80% to 82% | 2.7 |
| | | |
| C+ | 77% to 79% | 2.3 |
| C | 73% to 76% | 2.0 |
| C- | 70% to 72% | 1.7 |
| | | |
| D+ | 67% to 69% | 1.3 |
| D | 63% to 66% | 1.0 |
| D- | 60% to 62% | 0.7 |
| | | |
| F | Below 60% | 0.0 |