

ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Students and their parents are notified of the availability of dual enrollment and advanced placement classes; career and technical education programs, including internships, externships, apprenticeships, credentialing programs, certification programs, licensure programs, and other work-based learning experiences; the International Baccalaureate program and Academic Year Governor's School Programs; the qualifications for enrolling in such classes, programs, and experiences; and the availability of financial assistance to low-income and needy students to take the advanced placement and International Baccalaureate examinations. Students and their parents are also notified of the program with a community college to enable students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies concurrent with a high school diploma. The superintendent promulgates regulations to implement this policy, which ensure the provision of timely and adequate notice to students and their parents.

Adopted: September 10, 2018

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:1.

Cross Ref.: IGAD Career and Technical Education
LEB Advanced/Alternative Courses for Credit

INSTRUCTION

Student Evaluation and Grading/Class Rank

A. Grading

TAZEWELL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADING SYSTEM – GRADES 1-12

Elementary, Middle, and High Schools will use the following grading system for all classes except Advanced Placement courses and courses that have been designated to have an add-on value of 0.5.

*Grade	Descriptor	*Numeric Average	Quality Points
A	Excellent	93-100	4.00
B	Very Good	85-92	3.00
C	Satisfactory	77-84	2.00
D	Poor/Minimally Acceptable	70-76	1.00
F	Failure	Below 70	0.00
I	Incomplete	--	--

* Relationship between the alpha grade and its numeric equivalent for grades 1-12. Written progress reports and parental conferences shall be submitted for formal grades at the kindergarten level.

GRADING SCALE FOR ALTERNATIVE COURSES

The grading scale for courses taken through Virtual Virginia Advanced Placement courses and Advanced Placement courses offered by TCPS and certified in-school Advanced Placement instructors will be as follows for the students of Tazewell County Public Schools who participate:

- A = 93-100**
- B = 85-92**
- C = 77-84**
- D = 70-76**
- F = Below 70**

The grading scale for courses taken through A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School, Southwest Virginia Community College dual credit and dual enrollment courses, Southwest Virginia Training and Education Network (Elite Learning) asynchronous courses, and Special Programs will be as follows for the students of Tazewell County Public Schools who participate:

- A = 90-100**
- B = 80-89**
- C = 70-79**
- D = 60-69**
- F = Below 60**

B. GPA/Rank in Class Guidelines

1. Virginia Board of Education regulations require that courses taken below the ninth grade level that are identified as ninth grade or above, plus all other courses classified as ninth through twelfth grade, be included in determination of the required grade point average for the Board of Education seal and/or the Governor's seal. Courses taken during the second semester of the senior year shall be included.
2. All enrolled students will be tentatively ranked at the end of the first semester of the senior year. Final rank in class will be determined at the end of the second semester of the senior year.

Grading System for Weighted Grades – Students Who Entered the Ninth (9th) Grade Prior to the 2017-2018 school-year

After the calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA) based on a 4.0 scale, an assigned weight for weighted courses is added to the GPA. The weight of .036 is added to each weighted course completed with a grade of “C” or higher.

GRADE	DESCRIPTOR	Numeric Constant Values for Letter Grades	Weighted Course Add-on
A	Excellent	4.00	0.036
B	Very Good	3.00	0.036
C	Satisfactory	2.00	0.036
D	Poor/Minimally Acceptable	1.00	--
F	Failure	0.00	--
I	Incomplete		

Course availability at each high school is based upon student interest and request. All AP courses are not taught at all high schools. Students may take courses through Virtual Virginia course offerings. Effective with the class of 2010, all state approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses shall be weighted for computing a student’s grade point average.

Grading System for Weighted Grades – Students Who Entered the Ninth (9th) Grade in the 2017-2018 school-year

3. All state approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses shall be weighted for computing a student’s grade point average. Grade equivalents for AP courses shall be as follows:

- A = 5.0
- B = 4.0
- C = 3.0
- D = 2.0
- F = 1.0

4. Grade equivalents for courses taken from the A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School, Southwest Virginia Education Training Network, Virginia Virtual, Southwest Virginia Community College Dual Enrollment, and the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center will be calculated using a .5 add-on as follows:

A = 4.5
B = 3.5
C = 2.5
D = 1.5
F = 0.5

Weighted grade courses are courses in which the scope and sequence of the content is more rigorous and require significantly more work as compared to regular classes. Therefore, students who meet the requirements for these courses will be graded as follows:

After the calculation of the Grade Point Average (GPA), based on a 4.0 scale, an assigned numeric value for weighted courses is added to the GPA:

Standard: A = 4.0
Advanced Placement: A = 5.0
Dual Enrollment or Governor’s School: A = 4.5

GRADE	DESCRIPTOR	Numeric Constant Values for Advanced Placement Courses	Numeric Constant Values for A. Linwood Holton Governor’s School, Southwest Virginia Education Training Network, Virginia Virtual, Southwest Virginia Community College Dual Enrollment, and the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center
A	Excellent	5.00	4.5
B	Very Good	4.00	3.5
C	Satisfactory	3.00	2.5
D	Poor/Minimally Acceptable	2.00	1.5
F	Failure	--	--
I	Incomplete	--	--

Course availability at each high school is based upon student interest and request. All Advanced Placement (AP) courses are not taught at all high schools. Students may take AP courses through the Virginia Virtual online program or other Tazewell County School Board accepted programs from which AP classes are offered.

Special guidelines for GPA and class rank are found in IKF-R of the Tazewell County Policy Manual.

5. Only students completing all requirements at the end of the second semester for graduation will be eligible for the academic honors of Valedictorian or Salutatorian. To be eligible as Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must have completed the last four (4) consecutive semesters in Tazewell County Public Schools.
6. Students who complete graduation requirements in summer school will retain their previously determined class rank.
7. Rank in class shall be determined by assigning a constant numerical value to the letter.

Standard Courses – No Add-on	.5 Add-on	Advanced Placement Courses
A = 4.0	A = 4.5	A = 5.0
B = 3.0	B = 3.5	B = 4.0
C = 2.0	C = 2.5	C = 3.0
D = 1.0	D = 1.5	D = 2.0
F = 0.0	F = 0.5	F = 1.0

Grade Average Calculation

Student	Standard Courses	Add-on Courses	AP Courses	Total
Bob	22 As	3 As	5 As	30 As
	22 X 4.0 = 88.0	3 X 4.5 = 13.5	5 X 5.0 = 25.0	126.5

Example Grade Point Calculation:

$$88.0 + 13.5 + 25.0 = 126.5$$

Number of classes taken equals 30

$$126.5 \div 30 = 4.21667$$

Rounded = 4.22

4.217 = Official GPA

8. Only final grades for each course attempted shall be used in the computation of the final grade point average.
9. Courses repeated will be recorded on the transcript in compliance with the *Regulations Governing Secondary Transcripts, Standards for Accrediting Virginia Public Schools, and Guidelines for the Management of the Student's Scholastic Record in Virginia Public Schools.*
10. If a combination of circumstances should produce a ranking which the school principal deems to be unfair, he/she may act to correct the injustice, with School Board approval. Such action would rarely be necessary.

11. In computation of rank in class, all final ranks shall be calculated at four decimal places and rounded to the nearest three decimal places. (See example below.) Rank, except for ties, will reflect the number of students at and above any given rank.

Student	GPA	GPA	Rank in Class
A	3.8624	3.862	1
B	3.8452	3.845	2
C	3.8454	3.845	2
D	3.8067	3.807	4
E	3.8068	3.807	4
F	3.7732	3.773	6

12. Students with a GPA of 3.5 and above will be awarded academic letters and bars. The GPA will be computed annually for the purpose of awarding academic letters and bars.
13. "Valedictorian" and "salutatorian" designations for honoring graduates will continue to be used and will be supplemented by a system which recognizes students who achieve grade point averages within the following ranges:

Summa Cum Laude	GPA Greater than 4.000
Magna Cum Laude	GPA of 3.750 up to and including 4.000
Cum Laude	GPA of 3.500 up to and including 3.749

14. The final designation of honor graduates shall be presented to the Division Superintendent for review.

Approved by School Board: January 12, 1987
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