

Policy Related to Education

Grading Policy – Secondary Schools

The Burrillville School Department advocates the belief that student achievement should be evaluated against common learning standards and performance expectations that are consistently applied to all students.

All forms of assessment are standards-based and criterion-referenced, and each student's success is defined by his or her achievement of expected standards.

Students' academic progress and achievement are monitored and reported separately from Learner Habits, which include participation, attendance, behavior, and effort. These shall be graded separately from academics, through use of a common rubric.

The following grades and numerical equivalents shall be used to indicate academic achievement:

A - 90 – 100

B - 80 – 89

C - 70 – 79

D - 65 – 69

F - 50 – 64

U – Under 50

Learner Habits will be reported as follows:

1 - Rarely

2 - Sometimes

3 - Usually

4 - Always

In addition, the following practices in grading shall be observed by all secondary teachers:

- Grades will be based on individual - not group - achievement of standards.
- Students must be given no fewer than three performance-based assessments in a grading period. This is to ensure that there is ample opportunity for students to show growth and proficiency and to protect against any one assessment carrying excessive weight in grading. Homework may comprise no more than 10% of a quarter grade.
- Zeros may not be given for missing or incomplete performance-based assessments (tests, quizzes, labs, or other summative measures of student proficiency with standards) without documentation of specific interventions on the part of the teacher (additional teacher support, parent contact, referral for other school support services, etc).
- Grading categories shall be consistent across teams and departments.
- Teacher feedback on assessments must be relevant and timely. All grades will be recorded in the district's adopted Student Information System within 10 school days (two calendar weeks) of the due date.

In light of the increased academic requirements placed on students by the Burrillville School Department to meet the state-mandated 330 instructional minute requirement and the addition of more rigorous coursework to the high school and middle school courses of study, it is the School Committee's intent through this policy to bring the grading standards of the Burrillville secondary schools into alignment with those of the vast majority of secondary schools throughout the United States and Rhode Island.

First Reading: 3/11/08
Second Reading: 4/8/08
First Revised Reading: 5/8/18
Second Revised Reading: 6/12/18