

Uniform Grading Policy 3.301

The Background:

Uniform Grading System Policy 3.301 builds on Uniform Grading System Rule 0520-01-03-.02, which establishes the statewide uniform grading scale to be used by LEAs for students enrolled in grades nine through twelve (9-12) for the purposes of application for postsecondary financial assistance administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation.

This item revises the percentage points used to calculate semester average grades for Dual Enrollment courses, shifting from 4 percentage points to 5 percentage points, beginning with courses completed in the 2024-2025 school year. This policy should have been updated following approval of the Uniform Grading System Rule during the board's quarterly meeting on May 31, 2024, but was inadvertently overlooked.

This recommendation follows input from higher education leadership suggesting that Dual Enrollment course completion should be incentivized and rewarded because such courses result in the awarding of college credit.

Policy Justification:

T.C.A. § 4-5-230 requires that justification for adopting an item as a policy instead of a rule be submitted to the chair of the Government Operations Committee. This item is proposed for adoption as a policy because it defines or explains the meaning of a statute or rule, and/or concerns only the internal management of state government and does not affect private rights or privileges.

Connection to the [Master Plan](#):

This item supports the State Board's strategic focus on Postsecondary and Career outlined in the Master Plan by increasing flexibility for students seeking to take courses aligned to their area of interest and college or career pathway and by increasing student opportunities to qualify for state graduation distinction.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends acceptance of this item on first reading.