



September 29, 2019

To: Deanna McLaughlin, Tennessee Commissioner, MIC3

From: Richard L. Masters, General Counsel, MIC3

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Masters'.

Re: Questions Regarding Grade Point Averages

Based upon the recent written request via email from Tennessee Commissioner Deanna McLaughlin, I have been asked to provide legal guidance concerning the question of whether the Compact covers GPA recalculations.

Typically, public school districts or local education agencies (LEA) places like courses on the school board approved grading scale and then compares students within that particular school for the purposes of class ranking. Because of that reality, it is important when this ranking is done at the school level that all students are evaluated on equal terms. In addition, the Commission has previously clarified in *MIC3 Advisory Opinion 7-2017: Withdrawal of Credit and Grades*, that the Compact requires that the receiving school district must “honor the placement of the student in educational courses based on the student’s enrollment in the sending state school” and that continuing the student’s progress from the previous school is a paramount consideration when making placement decisions.

Consequently, a receiving state school is not allowed to withdraw credit and corresponding grades previously awarded for courses completed in the sending state public school where the sending state declines to do so. *See MIC3 Article V. A. 1.* However, the foregoing provisions of the compact do not require public school districts each member state to use identical grade point averages and this has been left to the discretion of each of the state education agency (SEA) For this reason, the Commission has not felt that it is appropriate to interfere with an SEA’s discretion to determine what grading scale is required.

c: Cherise Imai, Executive Director
Don Kaminar, Commission Chair
Laura Anastasio, Vice Chair
Mary Gable, Rules Committee Chair