



A-F SCHOOL GRADING

Model Policy

ExcelinEd Policy Toolkit - 2019

This document contains a model policy for A-F School Grading accountability. [Download this model policy as an editable Microsoft Word document.](#)

SUMMARY

The purpose of a school accountability system is to spur school improvement and increase student performance by providing transparent, objective information to parents, educators and the public about school effectiveness. A, B, C, D and F school grading recognizes success and exposes failure in a way that everyone can understand.

MODEL POLICY - THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

- (A) This Act shall be named the “The Accountability and Transparency Act.”
- (B) “Department” – The state Department of Education or an organization chosen by the state.
- (C) “School Grades” – The annual report shall identify schools as having earned one of these grades:
- (1) “A,” schools producing excellent student achievement and progress.
 - (2) “B,” schools producing above average student achievement and progress.
 - (3) “C,” schools producing satisfactory student achievement and progress.
 - (4) “D,” schools producing less than satisfactory student achievement and progress.
 - (5) “F,” schools failing to produce adequate student achievement and progress.
- (D) Each school earning an “A,” or having improved at least two grade levels, shall have greater authority over the allocation of the school’s total budget, state categorical funds, any lottery funds, grants, and local funds, as specified by the (State Board of Education or Department) and shall remain in effect until the school’s grade declines.
- (E) Designation of School Grades
- (1) Each school that has students who are enrolled in the school for the full academic year and tested on the statewide annual assessment, shall earn a school grade, except as follows:
 - (2) A school shall not earn a school grade if the percent of students tested is greater than 95 percent but the number of students tested is less than 10; this is to ensure accuracy and prevent of the unlawful release of personally identifiable student data under 20 U.S.C. s. 1232g and similar state privacy laws.
 - (3) Schools must test at least 95 percent of the students enrolled in the school during the testing window to earn a school grade of A, B, C, D or F. Schools that do not test 95 percent of their students will have the school grade lowered by one letter.
- (F) A school’s grade shall be based on a combination of:
- (1) The percent of students scoring at proficient or higher on the state annual accountability assessment for all students in reading, mathematics, and science, and/or, writing and social studies.
 - (2) The percent of students making growth to proficiency, or advanced proficiency for students already proficient, for all students as measured by the state annual accountability assessments in reading and mathematics.
 - (3) The percent of students making growth to proficiency for the lowest performing 25 percent of students in the school on the state annual accountability assessment in reading and mathematics.



- (4) The percent of English Learners making progress and reaching proficiency on an English language acquisition assessment.
 - (5) For high schools, the percent of students earning a standard high school diploma in four years.
 - (6) The Department shall assign elementary and middle school grades based on a balance of overall student achievement and growth with growth divided evenly between the growth of all students and the growth of the lowest performing 25 percent of students in the school. For high schools, proficiency shall be weighted more than growth and graduation rate should be a factor of no more than 20 percent of the overall calculation.
- (G) Student assessment data used in determining school grades shall include:
- (1) The scores of all students enrolled in the school for a full academic year with scores on the state annual accountability assessment.
 - (2) The growth scores of all students enrolled in the school for the current full academic year with scores on the state annual accountability assessment in the current and prior years.
 - (3) The growth scores of the lowest performing 25 percent of students (based on prior year scores in reading and mathematics scores) enrolled in the school for the current full academic year with scores on the state annual accountability assessment in the current and prior years.
- (H) “School Grade Points” - The Department shall develop the scale for schools and districts to earn an A, B, C, D, and F.
- (I) “Automatic Grading Scale Increase” – In any year in which 65 percent or more of the schools statewide aggregate earn a grade of A or B, the Department shall raise the scale required to earn a school grade by five percent until the scale reaches 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, and 0-59 = F.
- (J) “School Recognition” –The Department shall develop school awards for schools that improve at least one grade level or earn an A school grade.
- (K) “District Grades” – The annual report shall include a district grade, which follow the same method used for calculating a school grade except at the district level.
- (L) “School and District Report Cards” – The Department shall prepare annual reports of the results of the statewide accountability program to describe student achievement in the state, districts, and all public schools. The Department, with input from the school districts, parents, and community stakeholders, shall design these reports, which must include, without limitation, the school’s grade, an explanation of school performance, descriptions of the performance of all schools participating in the assessment program and all their major student populations as determined by the Department, and information regarding school improvement. The provisions of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C.s.1232g pertaining to student records and any similar state legislation apply to this section. The Department, on its website, shall publish each district and school’s report card annually, and the school/district shall provide the school report card to each parent no later than one month prior to the beginning of the next school year.