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MEMORANDUM

TO: Randolph County Board of Education
Dr. Stephen Gainey, Superintendent

PRESENTED BY: Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent
Kim Johnson, Director 9-12 Instruction

PREPARED BY: Kim Johnson, Director 9-12 Instruction

DATE: October 20, 2014

RE: State Board of Education alters Grade Point Average quality points and grading scale

The North Carolina State Board of Education approved a change in August for a new grading policy for high schools and any middle school courses that carry high school weight. This policy will go into effect for the freshmen class of 2015-2016. During this same time, a transition to a new weighting system will also occur for the incoming freshmen class. Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and College courses will count for a maximum of 5.0 GPA quality points for an A and honors courses will count for a maximum of 4.5 GPA quality points for an A. The change is designed to reduce grade inflation, achieve equal weight for college-level courses and reduce the disincentive for students to take non-advanced courses. Our teachers will continue to assign a numeric grade for courses, not a letter grade. The technology system (PowerSchool) will apply the appropriate letter grade and GPA weight on the back end. The change outlined above is supported by the state's community colleges and the University of North Carolina system.

All current high school students, including freshmen who started high school in the 2014-15 school year, will be covered by the prior policy where current high school students who receive an A get 6.0 GPA quality points in AP and IB courses, 5.0 GPA quality points in an Honors or College level course, and 4.0 GPA quality points for a standard course.

CURRENT SUMMARY OF STANDARDS FOR CALCULATING THE WEIGHTED GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND CLASS RANK OF NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

The current calculations are based on a standardization of:

- (1) academic course levels;
- (2) grading scales; and
- (3) the weighting of course grades.

The class rank is based on a weighted grade point average in which a single (1) quality point or weight is added to passing grades earned in Honors courses (including college transfer community college courses) and two (2) quality points are added to passing grades earned in Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) courses.

Grading Scale and Quality Point Comparison		
	Freshmen Cohort of 2015-2016	Upperclassmen of 2015-2016
Grading Scale	A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: Below 60	A: 100-93 B: 92-85 C: 84-87 D: 76-70 F: Below 70
Weighting System	Standard: 4.0 Honors: 4.5 Advanced Placement: 5.0 College: 5.0	Standard: 4.0 Honors: 5.0 Advanced Placement: 6.0 College: 5.0