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What a Student Wants

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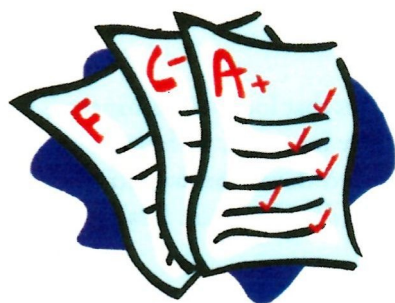
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What a Student Wants

The dictionary definition of "fail" is to fall short of success. However, success has different standards to different people. What one person might see as failing, another person might view as succeeding. People might view success differently, but schools should not.



When it comes to grades, succeeding and failing should have the same standards in all schools. There are many differences between the seven point and the ten point grade scale that are unfair to students. To be fair, every high school should use the same grading scale, the ten point scale.

The first advantage of switching from seven point to ten point is to level the playing field. For example, two students at different schools take an English test and both make a ninety-two. The first student who attends a school using the ten point scale receives an A and continues to make a 4.0 GPA. The unfortunate second student receives a B and risks his straight A average. Maintaining good grades is helpful to receive as many scholarships as possible. A student on a seven point grade scale could lose a scholarship to a person on a ten point scale even if the student had higher grades.

Extra curricular activities also suffer from a seven point grade scale. Cheyenne and Reydon schools have been combined in sports for several years. Reydon has a ten point grade scale and Cheyenne has a seven point scale. On more occasion than one, a Reydon student has been eligible to play with an average of sixty while a Cheyenne student sits on the bench and cannot play because he has a sixty-nine. The Cheyenne student views this as punishment even though he has a better average than the Reydon student. If all schools graded by a ten point grading scale, this would not be an issue.

Another aspect is that high school grades are not even looked at once getting into college. Why should schools make it harder to get straight A's when they are hardly ever looked at after graduation? Even college admissions directors are confused with all of the different grading scales. According to an article in *The Washington Post* by Valerie Strauss, Richard Martinez, the admissions director at Ohio's College of Wooster, has trouble with applications. He said, "We have found that it is incredibly difficult to find out what a GPA really means. That's one reason that we travel to high schools to learn the differences in what an A means at each. We have to know." If every school used the same ten point grade scale, the need to travel to each school would be obsolete. Most colleges use a ten point grading scale as well; therefore, the scale would not change from high school.

All high schools should use the ten point grade scale to not only be fair to the students but also encourage them to make good grades. With a ten point scale, it is easier to make an A; therefore, more students will be on the superintendents and the principals honor roll. The ten point grade scale just makes sense. It is obviously the better choice.

--Tristan Watson