

*G.S.115C-288(a) reads: "The principal shall have authority to grade and classify pupils." However, Laurie Mesibov from the Institute of Government reports "an Attorney General's opinion issued in 1987 suggests the limits of his (the principal's) authority. The school board is responsible for developing guidelines to ensure that the principal's power is exercised only in the most extraordinary circumstances. A principal may change a teacher's grade without his or her consent if, after conferring with the teacher, the principal determines that the grade was awarded arbitrarily and capriciously--that is, without relation to the student's performance, or for reasons unrelated to the grading process, or contrary to law or school board policy."*

In order to comply with the Attorney General's 1987 opinion cited above, the Cherokee County Board of education hereby establishes the policy that before a principal exercises his/her authority to change a grade given by a teacher, he/she must

1. Confer with the teacher about the grade change,
2. Submit to the superintendent in writing the evidence that the teacher's grade was given "arbitrarily and capriciously," or was given in violation of law or school board policy, and
3. Secure the superintendent's approval for changing the grade.

Generally, high school teachers will have much objective data (test grades, quiz scores, etc.) from which to assign grades. In the elementary schools, the teachers will often have less objective data. At all levels, however, teachers are expected to make their grading decisions on the bases of curriculum requirements and how well students are achieving those objectives. They shall be able to articulate their rationale for any grade assigned in terms of how well the student is progressing in relationship to curriculum objectives in the "North Carolina Standard Course of Study."

The Board further requires that teachers be consistent in their assignment of grades in so far as possible. They are to adhere to the regulations stated below in order to more nearly achieve that goal.

### **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards will be sent to parents at the end of each nine weeks of instruction. Kindergarten through grade five (5) teachers will use the Cherokee County Schools Report Card for each K-5 grade.

#### **Kindergarten Report Cards**

Kindergarten teachers using the "Cherokee County Kindergarten Report Card" will use the S=Satisfactory; E=Exceeds; M=Meets; P=Progressing; N=Not meeting; N/A= Not Assessed this Grading Period for the following criteria:

- a. Citizenship
- b. Work habits
- c. Science/Healthful living
- d. Social Studies
- e. Fine Arts

f. Technology

Language Arts and mathematics also receive these ratings along with multiple objective indicators.

### **Grades 1—2 Report Cards**

Grades 1—2 teachers using the "Cherokee County Elementary Report Card" will use the S=Satisfactory; N=Not Progressing; U=Unsatisfactory scale to assess the following criteria:

- a. Written Expression
- b. Hand Writing
- c. Science
- d. Social Studies
- e. Conduct
- f. Music
- g. Art
- h. PE

Reading, mathematics, and spelling receive a numerical grade for each of the subject areas.

### **Grades 3—5 Report Cards**

Grades 3—5 teachers using the "Cherokee County Elementary Report Card" will use the S=Satisfactory; N=Not Progressing; U=Unsatisfactory scale to assess the following criteria:

- a. Computer
- b. Music
- c. Art
- d. PE

Reading, mathematics, spelling, science, social studies, conduct, and language arts receive a numerical grade for each of the subject areas.

### **Grades 6—8 Report Cards**

Grades 6—8 teachers using the "Cherokee County Report Card" will assign numeric grades for all subjects in the student's schedule.

### **Grades 9—12 Report Cards**

Grades 9—12 teachers using the "Cherokee County Report Card" will assign letter grades using the A, B, C, D, F for all subjects in the student's schedule.

Alternative grades assigned such as INC = Incomplete, WF = Withdrawal Failing, and WP = Withdrawal Passing may be assigned in unique circumstances. **Auditing courses is not permitted.**

**GRADE CONVERSATION REGULATIONS**

Whenever conversions from numerical grades to letter grades are necessary, the following equivalencies will be used for high school per state requirement:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
Below 60 =	F

Elementary and Middle Schools will remain on the 7 point scale:

93-100=	A
85-92=	B
77-84=	C
70-76=	D
Below 69=	F

**HONOR STUDENTS**

For students to be on the Alpha Honor Roll, they must receive all A's and S's. To be on the Beta Honor Roll, they must receive no grade lower than a B or S.

**Guidelines for Grading**

***Ceiling on Grades:*** Grades will not be recorded higher than 100 on a report card grade or PowerSchool.

***Issuance of Extra Academic Credit:*** Extra credit should be academic in nature. Things like collection of cans, donation to the blood bank, and gifts for the nursing home are admirable acts; however, they do not affect academics. Therefore, it is the policy of the Cherokee County Board of Education that any extra credit given to students shall be academic in nature relating to the curriculum established by the Department of Public Instruction.

***Removal of Academic Points:*** Academic points may not be removed from student grades for disciplinary action, i.e., watching a movie gains a point but points may not be removed for not watching a movie.

Adopted:      July 15, 1999 (originally adopted June 25, 1991; amended September 5, 1996 and July 9, 1998.)

Amended:     April 19, 2012

Amended:     August 10, 2015