



HOUSE BILL 362: 15-Point Scale For School Performance Grades.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 9, 2019
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn*
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-154		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: S.L. 2019-154 codifies the 15-point scale for the determination of school performance grades; requires the State Board of Education to adopt emergency rules in preparation for permanent rulemaking; and directs the State Board of Education to study the reporting methods used for school accountability purposes on the North Carolina annual school report cards.

This act became effective July 22, 2019, and the codified 15-point grading scale applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

CURRENT LAW: The State Board of Education (SBE) is required to award school achievement, growth, and performance scores and an associated A-F performance grade for public schools. School performance scores are calculated by adding the school achievement score as 80% of the total score and the school growth score as 20% of the total score and then converting the total score to a 100-point scale. A-F school performance grades are assigned a corresponding letter grade based on a ten-point grading scale, as follows:

A School Performance Score of:	Equals a School Performance Grade of:
At least 90	A
At least 80	B
At least 70	C
At least 60	D
Less than 60	F

S.L. 2014-5 changed the scale for calculating A-F school performance grades from a ten-point scale to a 15-point scale for the 2013-2014 school year only, as follows:

A School Performance Score of:	Equals a School Performance Grade of:
At least 85	A
At least 70	B
At least 55	C
At least 40	D
Less than 40	F

S.L. 2015-17 extended the use of the 15-point scale for assignment of A-F school performance grades for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years. Section 8.19 of S.L. 2016-94 further extended the use of the 15-point scale for assignment of A-F school performance grades for the 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 school years.

BILL ANALYSIS: This act makes the following changes with regards to school performance scores and grades:

- Codifies the 15-point scale for assignment of A-F school performance grades.

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House Bill 362

Page 2

- Requires the SBE, in consultation with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to study (i) the weighting of the school achievement score and the school growth score in calculation of the overall school performance score to best reflect performance and progress for each school and (ii) the reporting methods used to meaningfully differentiate schools on the North Carolina annual school report cards. The SBE must report on recommendations to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by February 15, 2020.

Additionally, this act revives interim rules for the SBE until August 9, 2019, requires the SBE to adopt those rules as emergency rules by that date, and requires adoption of the emergency rules as permanent rules by May 30, 2020.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act became effective July 22, 2019, and the codified 15-point grading scale applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

**Kara McCraw, Staff Attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*