

MCCPTA Grading & Reporting Committee
Update - January 2008

H.S. Final Exam Exemptions for AP, IB and Cambridge Students Last month, Dr. Weast and Erick Lang informed the MCPS community of the decision to exempt students in 9th, 10th and 11th grade AP, IB and CIE courses from the final exam, if they take the applicable external exam. In addition, we were informed that all AP, IB and CIE students will complete a culminating activity at the end of the second semester. These changes will take effect in this (07-08) school year. For more information, please visit the Committee's listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MccptaGradingAndReporting/>.

ES OARS and IKA-RA At the January meeting of the Grading and Reporting Committee, we welcomed Betsy Brown, who gave a presentation on Standards-Based G/R and Elementary School OARS, and Dr. Weast for a brief time. From Betsy Brown, the Committee learned of an entirely new use of trending, using Pinnacle for ES version 7.0. We also heard about Pinnacle's usefulness and how it can be customized to lessen the teacher's workload when entering grades. The OARS presentation was followed by Betsy Brown's presentation of the new IKA-RA and a historical review of the regulation, its review process, terminology and the goals, processes and time line for revision. The BOE endorsed the operational framework for IKA-RA in March 2003. Since that time, the regulation has become outdated in terms of accuracy and relevancy to the current curriculum. The goals, processes and time line of revision of IKA-RA were explained to the Committee in detail. The Committee was asked to review draft 11 IKA-RA and to return feedback, which will be taken to the Grading and Reporting Implementation Team and to the IKA-RA Work Group.

Also under revision are Grading and Reporting-related regulations IKB-RA (Homework), IKC-RA (GPAs and Weighted GPAs), ISB-RA (HS Graduation Requirements), JEA-RA (Student Attendance) and JNA (Curricular Expenses for Students). With one exception, all are being revised to comport with current procedures and Grading and Reporting Policy IKA. One revision to IKC-RA was brought before GRIT in regard to whether the original grade earned in HS courses that are retaken should be replaced by the new grade or the higher grade be retained on the student's transcript. Much discussion ensued and the group ran out of discussion time. GRIT members were, therefore, asked to complete and leave their feedback before the end of the meeting, which was or is being compiled for Carol Blum to take back to the IKC-RA Work Group for discussion.

The Grading Calculation One Text Work Group is on schedule to conclude its work in February - next month. The focus topics include: 1) number and name of grading categories; 2) marking period grade calculation method; 3) combination of [grading category] weights and 4) semester grade calculations. More information will follow as permitted by this Work Group.

Next Committee Meeting: Presentation by the Office of Curriculum and Instruction on 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade standards-based report cards on Monday, February 4, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., CESC Conference Room 120.

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MCCPTA Grading & Reporting Committee
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