

2.009 GRADING SYSTEM

The policy of the Board of Directors is to strive for a consistent and just evaluation of each student at Riverside Leadership Academy. To ensure the effectiveness of this policy, the Board of Directors endorses the following beliefs and best practices:

- Student grades should reflect academic achievement
- While attendance and behavior may influence a student's learning, they should be reported separately, and not a factor in the student's grade
- Teachers should compare each student's performance against pre-set standards, not against the performance of other students.
- For missing work, teachers should provide reasonable opportunities to complete make-up assignment(s) in order to demonstrate the targeted learning
- Teachers should provide students and their parents/guardians with a clear explanation of their grading practices including the weighting of formative and summative assessments and rubrics as appropriate.
- All assessments and assignments, including teacher-made tests should be designed to assess student achievement accurately and aligned with the [North Carolina Essential Standards](#) and the Riverside Leadership Academy Charter.

I. Grading Scale

Kindergarten – Fifth Grade students will not receive traditional letter grades on their report cards. However, they will receive a Standards Based Report Card. A Standards Based approach allows parents and students to understand Riverside Leadership Academy's educational program as well as strategies to support student success. Traditional grades often measure many different factors - how well students do in comparison to their classmates and/or how well behaved they are in class. Standards based evaluations measure how well an individual student is doing in relation to grade level standards and skills, not the work of other students. Teachers use the results of the on-going assessments to determine a student's present level of performance and relation to the mastery of grade level content. The report cards will provide meaningful and relevant information, detailing each student's social/emotional and academic development.

In a Standard Based Report Card, grades reflect four levels of performance. They are:

- E - Exceeds grade level expectations with consistency and accuracy;
- S - Meets grade level expectations with consistency and accuracy;
- P – Making progress/developing- indicates the student is approaching and occasionally meets the standards for the current grade level; and
- C – Concern - indicates the student has not yet met minimum level standards.

Sixth - Twelfth Grade Letter and/or numerical grades will be given; the grading scale shall be as follows:

- A = 90-100 Excellent
- B = 80-89 Above Average
- C = 70-79 Average
- D = 60-69 Proficient
- F = 0-59 Not Proficient

II. Grading Parameters

Students earn grades based on material outlined in the North Carolina Essential Standards. Students' grades will reflect their actual performance in the course. Percentage grades will be used on report cards, cumulative folders, and transcripts.

The following grading parameters are in place for the 2024-2025 school year and will be followed by all Riverside Leadership Academy's applicable grade levels:

- **Make-up Work** – When a student is absent, the student has 3 school days to turn in missed work upon returning to school. The day the student returns to school is Day 1 of the 3 days.
- **Late Work** – Teachers shall have autonomy to develop a late work policy within their grade level teams. Before each school year the grade level teams will determine their late work policy and communicate it to their student's parents/guardians. When determining their policy, teachers shall consider how the policy effectively helps them assess student comprehension of the curriculum and not student behaviors. Riverside Leadership Academy's administration must approve any late work policy before it is implemented.
- Teachers will have autonomy when determining grade categories weights/percentages. (classwork, homework, Tests, etc.) Teachers will communicate these weights/percentages with Riverside Leadership Academy's administration and parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year.
- When completing team/group assignments, students shall not be penalized for the incomplete work of others. In some situations, the student could receive a group grade and an individual grade. Teachers will determine whether they assign a group and individual grade.
- The final grade may include tests, quizzes, projects, group/team work, labs, research papers, homework, class participation, classwork, etc.