



## Mensaje del Superintendente

Distrito Escolar Independiente Cypress-Fairbanks



7 de octubre de 2008

Estimado comunicador clave:

El proyecto de ley HB 3851 aprobado por la 80<sup>ma</sup> Legislatura de Texas requiere que la Junta Coordinadora de Educación Superior de Texas (THECB) desarrolle un método uniforme para determinar el promedio de puntos acumulados (GPA) de los alumnos de secundaria para la admisión en las universidades públicas de Texas. La implementación tendrá lugar comenzando con los alumnos de primer grado de secundaria del año lectivo 2009-2010, nuestros alumnos presentes de octavo grado.

El Fiscal General emitió una opinión en el mes de agosto de este año indicando que los **distritos escolares deben usar el cálculo del GPA estándar para el propósito de admisión a universidades públicas del estado de Texas.**

**Los aportes del público acerca de la propuesta de implementación se aceptarán hasta el 19 de octubre de 2008.** Después de estudiar los asuntos tratados en esta carta, lo exhorto a contactar a la THECB en: <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/ContactUs/default.cfm>.

Si usted desea presentar comentarios por escrito, puede hacerlo escribiendo a Natalie Coffey, directora principal del programa de la Junta Coordinadora de Educación Superior de Texas, en P.O. Box 12788, Austin, TX, 78711.

Las recomendaciones para el Cálculo del GPA Uniforme (UGPAC) bajo consideración, tendrá un impacto considerable en la posición académica en la clase removiendo puntos adicionales de los cursos de Nivel-K (Honores). Como es de su conocimiento, los puntajes de los cursos se utilizan para calcular el GPA y el GPA se usa para determinar la posición académica en la clase.

Actualmente:

1. Los alumnos graduados en el 10 por ciento de los mejores alumnos de su clase son automáticamente admitidos en cualquier universidad pública del estado.
2. Las clases de Nivel-K (Honores) tienen más peso que las clases de Nivel-L (a nivel). Por ejemplo, el alumno que recibe una calificación "B" en una clase de Nivel-K obtiene tantos puntos como los que obtiene un alumno con una calificación "A" en un curso a Nivel-L debido al alcance y el rigor de los cursos de Nivel-K.

3. La ley distingue una diferencia entre el rigor del Programa Mínimo de Escuela Secundaria y el Programa Recomendado de Escuela Secundaria (RHSP por sus siglas en inglés). El RHSP es el programa de graduación "recomendado" por el estado.

Propuesto:

1. Las actuales regulaciones propuestas no tratan la regla del 10 por ciento superior; sin embargo, en la sesión anterior varios legisladores propusieron abolirla.
2. No hay puntos de grado adicionales bajo consideración para las clases de Nivel-K (Honores). Solo Colocación Avanzada (AP), Programa Internacional de Bachillerato (IB; el cual no aplica al CFISD) y los cursos de doble crédito recibirán más puntos de grado que las clases a nivel. Aplicando el ejemplo del No. 2 anterior, una calificación "B" en una clase de Nivel-K (Honores) obtendría los mismos puntos de grado que una calificación "B" en una clase de Nivel-L (a nivel) sin consideración ni puntos adicionales por el mayor grado de dificultad o rigor de los cursos honoríficos.
3. Los cursos electivos tales como banda, orquesta, educación física y atletismo/deportes no recibirán ningún punto de grado, a pesar de que estos cursos satisfacen los requisitos de graduación del plan estatal "recomendado"- RHSP.

Debemos trabajar juntos para garantizar que las universidades públicas de Texas tengan políticas de admisión que reconozcan el rigor de los cursos en los que están inscritos nuestros alumnos para cumplir con los requisitos de graduación.

Para más información, adjunto a esta carta encontrará el resumen de la recomendación para el Cálculo del GPA Uniforme. Si tiene preguntas al respecto, no dude en contactar a la Dra. Cheryl Salyards en [Cheryl.salyards@cfisd.net](mailto:Cheryl.salyards@cfisd.net) o a mí en [david.anthony@cfisd.net](mailto:david.anthony@cfisd.net).

Atentamente,

Dr. David Anthony

Superintendente de Escuelas



# Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

**Summary Brief – Updated October 3, 2008**

## **UNIFORM GPA CALCULATION (UGPAC) RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Note: The following information represents proposed recommendations on the UGPAC currently under consideration by the Commissioner of Higher Education. These and any subsequent recommendations are scheduled to be considered by the full Coordinating Board at its October 23, 2008, quarterly meeting. Please check [www.thecb.state.tx.us](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us) regularly for additional updates. Or, you may contact the External Relations Division at 512-427-6111 or 427-6119 for more details.*

### **Topics:**

- Implementation date
- Course weights
  - a. Pre-AP/IB
  - b. Career and Technical Education
- Public education compliance requirements
- Review of recommendations and final adoption process
- Proposed conversion chart for the UGPAC
- Proposed rules for implementation of UGPAC

### **Background:**

HB 3851 passed by the 80th Texas Legislature requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to create a standard method of determining high school student grade point averages (GPA) for admission to a Texas public university. The Coordinating Board asked the Attorney General for an opinion regarding the scope of the law when it became clear that not all stakeholders interpreted the law in the same manner. In particular, the Coordinating Board asked for clarification on whether or not school districts were required to use the standard method of calculation and whether or not the Coordinating Board had the latitude to provide a transition period for implementation of the standard method of calculation.

The Attorney General issued an opinion on August 26, 2008. The opinion indicates that the standard GPA calculation must be used by the school districts for purposes of public university admissions, and it provides the Coordinating Board with the latitude to implement this legislation in a manner that does not retroactively impact students already in public high schools.

### **1. IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

- The recent opinion issued by the Office of the Attorney General made clear that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (CB) has the latitude to phase in the UGPAC to ensure that no high school student currently in the education pipeline is adversely affected by its implementation.
- The current recommendation from the Commissioner of Higher Education, Raymund Paredes, is that the implementation for the new Uniform GPA Calculation takes effect no sooner than with the **incoming high school freshman class of 2009**.
- Current high school students (9-12th grade) will not be affected by any future implementation.



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### 2. COURSE WEIGHTS

#### a. Pre-Advanced Placement/Pre-International Baccalaureate

- Commissioner Paredes is currently considering recommending to the Coordinating Board that Pre-AP and/or Pre-IB courses not be weighted in the UGPAC.
- The recommendation currently includes weighting AP, IB and dual credit courses.
- The reasoning for excluding Pre-AP/Pre-IB is:
  - Not recognized by the College Board
  - No standardization and no uniform standard of rigor
  - No other public institution of higher education in the nation weights Pre-AP/Pre-IB courses for admittance purposes. Weighting those courses would not apply to admittance to out-of-state institutions either.
  - Schools and their districts might begin to create a series of new courses without College Board oversight or standardization in order to give their students an advantage in the calculation. This would create an uneven playing field for those who continue to play by the rules.
  - From the College Board website:  
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/k-12/prepare/pre-ap>

"Please note: **The College Board does not design, develop, or assess courses labeled "Pre-AP."** In fact, the College Board discourages the labeling of courses as "Pre-AP." Typically, such courses create a track, thereby limiting access to AP classes. The College Board supports the assertion that all students should have access to preparation for AP and other challenging courses. Courses labeled "Pre-AP" can inappropriately restrict access to AP and other college-level work and as such are inconsistent with the fundamental purpose of the College Board's Pre-AP initiatives, which are professional development workshops designed to help teachers instill more rigor in whatever courses they are teaching students in the years prior to AP. "

#### b. Career and Technical Education

- Commissioner Paredes is currently considering recommending to the Coordinating Board that the basis for determining the UGPAC should be focused on academic components (math, science, English, social studies, fine arts, and languages other than English), as defined by the Recommended High School Program (RHSP).
- Beginning in 2010, all Texas high school graduates will need the RHSP in order to gain admission to a general academic teaching institution.
- The principle to focus on academic courses to determine a student's GPA under the new calculation reinforces the RHSP requirement.
  - The CB continues to recognize the important role of Career and Technical Education (CTE) to ensure a skilled workforce.
  - Some CTE courses that may be applied to the UGPAC include those that are considered dual credit courses.
  - A large number of CTE students will enter 2-year community college in order to gain the knowledge and certifications they will need to succeed in their chosen trade.
  - Therefore, the CB continues to advocate for increased academic rigor in CTE to ensure those students gain the skills necessary to successfully complete college-level courses.



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## 3. PUBLIC EDUCATION COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

- The Uniform GPA is designed for use in college admissions and is not meant to infringe on a school district's right to establish its own method for determining GPA.
- But as a practical matter, we anticipate there will be widespread adoption of the UGPAC by school districts.
- Although public educators and Texas Education Agency staff serve on the UGPA Advisory Committee, the statute does not require approval by the Commissioner of Education or the State Board of Education.

## 4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS

### a. Public comment period

- Proposed rules have been placed in the Texas Register (attached).
- Public comments will be accepted on the **proposed calculation formula** until Oct. 6, 2008.
- Public comments will be accepted on the **proposed implementation date** until Oct. 19, 2008.
- Stakeholders wishing to submit a written comment may do so by writing to Natalie Coffey, Senior Program Director of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, at P.O. Box 12788, Austin, TX, 78711.

### b. Participation and Success Committee meetings

- At the Sept. 17, 2008, meeting, the Committee voted to postpone the Commissioner's recommendation in order to give adequate consideration to all public comments.
- October 22, 2008, a joint committee meeting with the Strategic Planning Committee will be held at the THECB beginning at 10 a.m. to discuss all comments received regarding the proposed rules.
  - The meeting if held will be broadcast online. Please visit [www.thecb.state.tx.us](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us) on the day of the event to listen in via internet.

### c. Meeting of the full Coordinating Board

- Discussion and possible adoption of the Commissioners' final recommendations by the Board
- Quarterly meeting, October 23, 2008, at the THECB beginning at 8:30 a.m.
  - The meeting is scheduled to be broadcast online. Please visit [www.thecb.state.tx.us](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us) on the day of the event to listen in via internet.

## SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

**5.9. Conversion Chart for Uniform Grade Point Average.**

The following conversion chart shall be used in the calculation of grade point averages pursuant to Section 5.8 of this subchapter (relating to Uniform Grade-Point Average Calculation for Admission to General academic Teaching Institutions):

GPA	Percentile	Letter Grade	AP/IB/Dual Credit
4.0	95-100	A	5.0
3.9	94	A	4.9
3.8	93	A	4.8
3.7	92	A -	4.7
3.6	91	A -	4.6
3.5	90	A -	4.5
3.4	89	B +	4.4
3.3	88	B +	4.3
3.2	87	B +	4.2
3.1	86	B	4.1
3.0	85	B	4.0
2.9	84	B	3.9
2.8	83	B	3.8
2.7	82	B -	3.7
2.6	81	B -	3.6
2.5	80	B -	3.5
2.4	79	C +	3.4
2.3	78	C +	3.3
2.2	77	C +	3.2
2.1	76	C	3.1
2.0	75	C	3.0
1.9	74	C	2.9
1.8	73	C	2.8
1.7	72	C -	2.7
1.6	71	C -	2.6
1.5	70	C -	2.5
1.4	69	D +	0
1.3	68	D +	0
1.2	67	D +	0
1.1	66	D	0
1.0	65	D	0
0.9	64	D	0
0.8	63	D	0
0.7	62	D -	0
0.6	61	D -	0
0.5	60	D -	0

### 5.10. **Implementation of Uniform Grade Point Average Rules.**

- (a) The rules for calculation of the Uniform Grade Point Average established under Section 5.8 of this subchapter shall apply to the calculation of such averages for all students who enter the ninth grade for the first time from May 1, 2009, onward.
- (b) The grade point averages of students already in ninth grade or higher as of April 30, 2009, or before, shall be calculated on the same basis that would have applied to such students before the adoption of Section 5.8 of this subchapter.

#### SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### 5.8. Uniform Grade-Point Average Calculation for Admission to General Academic Teaching Institutions.

Procedures for calculating the high school grade-point average for students seeking admission to a Texas general academic teaching institution shall be as follows:

- (1) Only official high school transcripts shall be accepted by the general academic teaching institution for evaluation and grade-point calculation.
- (2) A four-point scale shall be used in computing the Uniform Grade-Point Average with the exception of paragraph (5) of this section.
- (3) No grade points shall be awarded for courses that do not result in credit awarded (e.g.: failed courses).
- (4) All academic courses included in Chapters 110-114 of this title, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills shall be used in calculating the Uniform Grade-Point Average regardless of when the course was taken.
  - (A) Grades earned in local credit courses shall not be included in the computation of the Uniform Grade-Point Average.
  - (B) Grades from out-of-state academic courses shall be included in the computation of the Uniform Grade-Point Average if state credit toward the Recommended or Distinguished High School Program is awarded for them.
- (5) Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and academic Dual Credit courses that are part of Chapters 110-114 of this title, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, shall be weighted equally with an additional weighting of 1.0 points in the calculation of the Uniform Grade-Point Average.
- (6) The Uniform Grade-Point Average shall be computed for use by the general academic teaching institution:
  - (A) By multiplying each grade (see paragraph (4) of this section) by the semester or quarter credit hours earned per course and totaling the products, and
  - (B) The total of the products shall be divided by the total semester or quarter credits.
  - (C) The result is to be calculated to no more than three decimal places, giving the official cumulative Uniform Grade-Point Average.