Calculating High School Grade Point Averages

Introduction

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) is committed to ensuring that every student feels loved, challenged, and prepared to positively influence society and thrive in life by providing rigorous and inclusive learning environments for all students. In the furtherance of that mission, the grades, credits, and grade point averages (GPA) of DCPS high school students are tracked on a high school transcript to monitor and communicate their academic progress towards graduation.

This document aims to describe the manner in which GPAs are calculated on DCPS high school transcripts. All official high school GPAs and class rankings are calculated in Aspen, DCPS' student information system. This process is managed by DCPS Central Services to ensure it occurs in a consistent, accurate, and equitable manner for all students at all DCPS high schools.

This policy is effective for school year 2023-24 and beyond and rescinds and supersedes all previous policy, memoranda, and guidance promulgated by DCPS on this subject matter.

To further help advise students on how to calculate their GPAs, a guide on how to calculate a GPA and a GPA worksheet are included at the end of this document.

Key Terms and Definitions

Advanced Placement (AP) means college-level courses following The College Board guidelines and testing system.[1]

Attempted Credit means the number of credits for which students received a grade (i.e., A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, and F).

Credit means the Carnegie Unit value of the course. DCPS courses are either 1 credit or 0.5 credits.

Computed Grade Points means the credit value for a course multiplied by the grade point value.

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) means a student's GPA that includes all final marks for courses attempted in high school.

Dual Enrollment (DE) means courses in which high school students enroll in approved college courses that are taken on a college campus and they earn both high school and college credit.[2]

Earned Credit means credit students receive for courses that they passed with a grade D or higher.

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[1] 5-B DCMR § 2200.7.
[2] 5-A DCMR § 2400.1.

Grade Point Average (GPA) means an average of a student's grades accumulated during the term or school year.

Grade Point Value means the numerical value assigned to a grade. For example, an A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, and F = 0.0, which should be weighted if the course is an Honors, Pre-AP, AP, IB, or DE course.

High School Transcript means the official record of the courses, grades, and GPA of any student pursuing a high school diploma.

Honors means courses which cover more content in greater depth than general courses of the same subject.[3]

International Baccalaureate (IB) means the program of study following requirements of the International Baccalaureate Organization.[4]

Term Grade Average means a student's GPA that includes all marks for the current term and includes marks for courses in progress.

Year Grade Average means a student's GPA that is calculated with final marks for the current academic year.

Grade Point Value

The first step in accurately calculating a student's GPA is to know the numerical equivalent of each mark (i.e., letter grade such as A, B+, C-, etc.) and the grade points that students earn for each mark. The table below lists all possible marks that students can earn, their numerical equivalent, whether they have a credit value and count toward the GPA, and the grade points earned, as well as some additional clarifying comments.

Marks	Numerical Equivalent	Credit	GPA	Grade Point Value			Additional Comments
				On Grade (unweighted)	Honors, Pre-AP	AP, IB, DE	
A	93% to 100%	Yes	Yes	4.0	4.5	5.0	
A-	90% to 92%	Yes	Yes	3.7	4.2	4.7	
B+	87% to 89%	Yes	Yes	3.3	3.8	4.3	
B	83% to 86%	Yes	Yes	3.0	3.5	4.0	
B-	80% to 82%	Yes	Yes	2.7	3.2	3.7	
C+	77% to 79%	Yes	Yes	2.3	2.8	3.3	
C	73% to 76%	Yes	Yes	2.0	2.5	3.0	
C-	70% to 72%	Yes	Yes	1.7	2.2	2.7	
D+	67% to 69%	Yes	Yes	1.3	1.8	2.3	
D	64% to 66%	Yes	Yes	1.0	1.5	2.0	
F	63% & below	No	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0	No credit is earned for a mark of F. The mark is included in

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[3] 5-B DCMR § 2200.7.
[4] 5-B DCMR § 2200.7.

							the calculation of the GPA.
W	Withdrawn	No	No				
L	Late entry	No	No				Converts to AUD at end of following term if course is not completed.
I	Incomplete	No	No				Converts to F after 10 school days if coursework is not completed.
M	Medical	No	No				
P	Pass	Yes	No				
AUD	Audit	No	No				
S	Satisfactory	No	No				For use in homeroom or other non-academic time.
U	Unsatisfactory	No	No				For use in homeroom or other non-academic time.

Calculating the Cumulative Grade Point Average

How to Calculate Cumulative GPAs

A student's GPA is calculated by dividing the total amount of computed grade points by the total amount of credit hours *attempted*. To calculate a cumulative GPA, you add the total credit hours attempted and add the computed grade points from *all* semesters in high school. You then divide the total computed grade points by the total credit hours attempted. Please see the below sections for further information on calculating marks of F, computed grade points, and examples of this calculation.

While DCPS encourages middle school students to take high school-level courses when appropriate, these courses are *not* included in students' cumulative GPAs so as not to discourage students from challenging themselves academically during middle school.

Cumulative GPAs are weighted based on course credits and saved on student transcripts.

Calculating Marks of "F"

The Cumulative GPA, Term Grade Average, and Year Grade Average of all students enrolled in a DCPS school include *all* marks earned, including F. To encourage academic success and timely graduation, DCPS students are able to retake courses in which they have previously earned a mark of "F." When a student retakes a course in which they previously received an "F" and receives a new grade, the initial mark of "F" and the new grade will both be included in the calculation of their GPA.[5] Both grades will also be included on the student's transcript in the respective terms in which the student took the courses.

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[5] 5-E DCMR § 2200.8.

Computed Grade Point Formula

Computed grade points, which are used to calculate the GPA, are based on the following calculation: **credit value x grade point value** (weighted if appropriate) **= computed grade points**.

The following table provides an example of how to calculate computed grade points for a variety of course types, including general, Honors, AP, half credit, and failed courses:

Course	Credit	Mark	Grade Point Value	Credit x Grade Point	Computed Grade Points
E37 Honors English 3	1.0	B	3.5	1.0 x 3.5	3.5
HC8 US Government	0.5	A	4.0	0.5 x 4.0	2.0
SB9 AP Biology Part A	0.5	B	4.0	0.5 x 4.0	2.0
VP3 Programming 1	1.0	C+	2.3	1.0 x 2.3	2.3
U14 Bach to Rap	0.5	B-	2.7	0.5 x 2.7	1.35
M41 Algebra 2	1.0	F	0.0	1.0 x 0.0	0.0
P24 Personal Fitness	0.5	C-	1.7	0.5 x 1.7	0.85
L13 French 3	1.0	A-	3.7	1.0 x 3.7	3.7
TOTAL	**6.0**				**15.7**

GPA Formula

The GPA is calculated by dividing the total computed grade points by the total number of credits a student has attempted: **computed grade points ÷ number of credits attempted = GPA.**

To use the chart above to provide an example of how to use the GPA formula to calculate a student's GPA, first calculate the total number of credits attempted (i.e., 6.0) and the total computed grade points (i.e., 15.7). Then divide the computed grade points by the number of credits attempted for a result of 2.61.

GPA formula: Computed grade points ÷ number of credits attempted = GPA
Example: 15.7 ÷ 6.0 = **2.61**

Calculating the Term Grade Point Average

Term Grade Average

The Term Grade Average is calculated with term marks and includes marks for courses currently in progress. For example, a student's Term Grade Average for the third term will *only* include courses the student has taken during the third term, including those currently in progress.

The Term Grade Average does not weight courses for credit amounts. Results are not saved on student transcripts, but do appear on student report cards. Results are used for honor roll purposes and athletic eligibility.

Term Grade Average Formula

The Term Grade Average calculates all courses with equal credit value based on the marks earned and incorporates Honors/Pre-AP and AP/IB/DE weighting. The marks earned are added together and then divided by the number of courses attempted during that term.

The following chart provides an example of how to calculate a student's Term Grade Average:

Course	Marks Earned	
E37	B	(3.5)
HC8	A	(4.0)
SB9	B	(4.0)
VP3	C+	(2.3)
U14	B-	(2.7)
M41	F	(0.0)
P24	C-	(1.7)
L13	A-	(3.7)
Total		**21.9**

Term Grade Average formula: Sum of marks earned ÷ number of courses attempted
Example: 21.9 ÷ 8 = **2.74**

Calculating the Year Grade Average

Year Grade Average
The Year Grade Average is calculated with final marks for the current academic year. The Year Grade Average weights courses for credit amounts.

Results appear on each student's transcripts after the official end of the school year. Results also appear on student's report card and will update each term as the student completes their courses. Year averages are used to qualify to play a fall sport if a student enrolls from an out-of-district school. In this case, the higher of the Year Grade Average or term 4 GPA (from the prior school year) is used to determine eligibility.

Year Grade Average Formula
The Year Grade Average is calculated by dividing the sum of computed grade points earned for the school year by the sum of credits attempted. This calculation incorporates Honors/Pre-AP and AP/IB/DE weighting.

Appendix A: How to Calculate your Cumulative GPA Worksheet

This worksheet is designed to help guide you through the process of calculating your grade point average (GPA). Your high school GPA is calculated based on all courses taken during high school that appear on your transcript and receive a grade of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, and F.

To calculate your GPA, follow these steps:
- Determine the point value for each grade earned using the appropriate scale (use the Grade Point Scale below).
- Multiply the point value of the course by the credit attempted for the course. The product of the multiplication will be the computed grade points.
- Divide the total computed grade points by the total attempted hours.

Grade Point Scale						
Marks	**Numerical Equivalent**	**Credit**	**GPA**	**Grade Point Value**		
				On Grade (Unweighted)	**Honors, Pre-AP**	**AP, IB, DE**
A	93% to 100%	Yes	Yes	4.0	4.5	5.0
A-	90% to 92%	Yes	Yes	3.7	4.2	4.7
B+	87% to 89%	Yes	Yes	3.3	3.8	4.3
B	83% to 86%	Yes	Yes	3.0	3.5	4.0
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C-	70% to 72%	Yes	Yes	1.7	2.2	2.7
D+	67% to 69%	Yes	Yes	1.3	1.8	2.3
D	64% to 66%	Yes	Yes	1.0	1.5	2.0
F	63% & below	No	Yes	0.0	0.0	0.0

Calculating a GPA and Marks of "F"

When a student receives a mark of "F," then retakes the course and receives a new grade, the initial mark of "F" and the new grade will both be used as part of the GPA calculation. Both grades remain on the student's transcript.
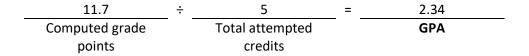
Instructions for Using the Cumulative GPA Worksheet

To calculate your cumulative GPA using the GPA worksheet, follow these steps:

Step 1: Write the name of the courses in the "Courses" column (column 1).

Step 2: Write the grade you received for each course in the "Mark" column (column 2).

Step 3: Determine the point value for each grade earned using the appropriate scale (use the Grade Point Scale chart for this information.) Write this in the "Grade Point Value" column (column 3) for each course.

Step 4: Write the credit value for each course in the "Credit Attempted" column (column 5).

Step 5: Multiply the point value of each course by the credit attempted for the course (column 3 times column 5). The product of the multiplication will be the computed grade points. Write the computed grade points for each course in the "Computed Grade Point" column (column 7).

Step 6: Divide the total computed grade points by the total attempted credits to calculate your GPA.

Example of GPA Computation

Courses	Mark	Grade Point Value	Multiply	Attempted Credits	Equals	Computed Grade Points
English II	A	4.0	x	1.0	=	4.0
AP Biology Pt. A	B+	4.3	x	0.5	=	2.15
Geometry	C-	1.7	x	1.0	=	1.7
US Government	B-	2.7	x	0.5	=	1.35
Spanish I	F	0.0	x	1.0	=	0.0
From Bach to Rap	D	1.0	x	0.5	=	0.5
Computer Applications	A	4.0	x	0.5	=	2.0
			Total	5.0		11.7

Divide the total computed grade points by total attempted credits. The quotient is the GPA.

11.7	÷	5	=	2.34
Computed grade points		Total attempted credits		**GPA**

Cumulative GPA Worksheet

Courses	Mark	Grade Point Value	Multiply	Attempted Credits	Equals	Computed Grade Point
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			x		=	
			Total			

Computed grade points	÷	Total attempted credits	=	**GPA**