



Division of Student Services
Deborah A. Montilla, District Director

Technical Assistance Paper
Senior High School Forgiveness Policy

Florida law [s. 1003.43(5)(e)1, F.S.], in part, specifies that forgiveness policies for required courses shall be limited to replacing a grade of D or F with a grade of C or higher earned subsequently in another course. Furthermore, any course grade not replaced must be included in the calculation of the cumulative grade point average (GPA) required for graduation.

The intention of the forgiveness policy is to assist students in meeting the minimum grade point average necessary to attain a standard high school diploma.

The purpose of this technical assistance paper is to clarify issues regarding the application of the grade forgiveness policy.

- The authority to apply a grade for forgiveness does not provide the authority to alter a student's record to delete the forgiven course. Therefore, forgiven courses and grades must be included on a student's transcript. However, forgiven grades will be bypassed for the purposes of GPA calculation.
- A grade of D or F may be forgiven only after a grade of C or better is earned. Therefore, the C or better must be earned subsequent to the grade of D and/or F.
- Multiple grades of D and F that were earned in the same course may be forgiven by a grade of C or better, this in effect "wipes the slate clean" of the lower grades for the purposes of GPA. As a result, the multiple grades of D and F will be bypassed in the calculation of the GPA.
- Courses that are repeated and the forgiveness policy cannot be applied (e.g. the same grade of a C was earned twice in Algebra I) will be included in the calculation of the GPA. However, the student must be advised that he/she may fall short of the required number of credits since the course that was repeated should not be counted towards the total number of credits required for graduation.
- Required core courses can only be forgiven with same subject area courses taken subsequently. Electives, e.g., Foreign Language, Practical Arts, Performing Arts, Physical Education that are not specific graduation requirements, or core courses that are not mandatory and taken as electives, can be forgiven with any other elective course.
- Personal Fitness, an elective course required for graduation, can only be forgiven by the same course so that the graduation requirement has been met.
- **The only exception to these forgiveness policies shall be made for a student in the middle grades who takes a high school course for high school credit beginning in the 2007-2008 school year and thereafter and earns a grade of "C," "D," or "F." In such case, the forgiveness policy must allow the replacement of the grade with a grade of "C" or higher, earned subsequently in the same course or comparable course in the same subject area.**

Please contact Mr. Carlos A. Viera, District Chairperson, at the Division of Student Services, 305-995-7338 if additional information is needed.