

VBCPS FACT CHECKER

GRADING PRACTICES:

In 2016, through the work of a task force, town hall meetings and an online survey, VBCPS directed that each school - either by grade level, department or specialized course – develop grading expectations to be used in their classrooms. As a result, VBCPS has developed more consistent grading practices from class to class within a school.

EXPECTATIONS

Parents can view the grading expectations for their child's classes at any time.

The grading expectations for every course are posted on each school's website.

To access them, visit the school's site, select the "Parents" tab and then click "Grading Guidelines."



Although not a divisionwide practice, teachers at some schools have collaboratively said that no grade below a 50 will be given to students. That decision was made as teachers developed their grading practices for either their grade level or subject area. This practice had already been common to some classrooms for years.

1 Year

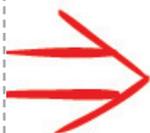
VBCPS teachers at middle and high schools spent the entire 2016-17 school year talking about grading practices and policies.

Together, these professionals identified the grading practices they wanted their grade level or subject area to use in the classroom.

Student achievement is on the rise in Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

Contrary to what some might say, academic achievement continues to build in Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

Standards are higher than ever and VBCPS students continue to outperform their peers in a number of critical areas: graduation rates, SAT scores, AP Enrollment and SOL performance, just to name a few.



GRADING GUIDELINES

While there is no evidence a zero increases students' motivation, teachers have always had the discretion to use/give zeros. The division's grading guidelines clearly state that zeros may be given, as long as that practice is part of the plan developed with their grade level or subject area peers.

1,690 VISITS

The community weighed in on the grading changes. More than 1,690 people visited the town hall to learn more about the grading practices. According to the division's town hall provider, the feedback that was shared amounted to 19 hours of public comment.

