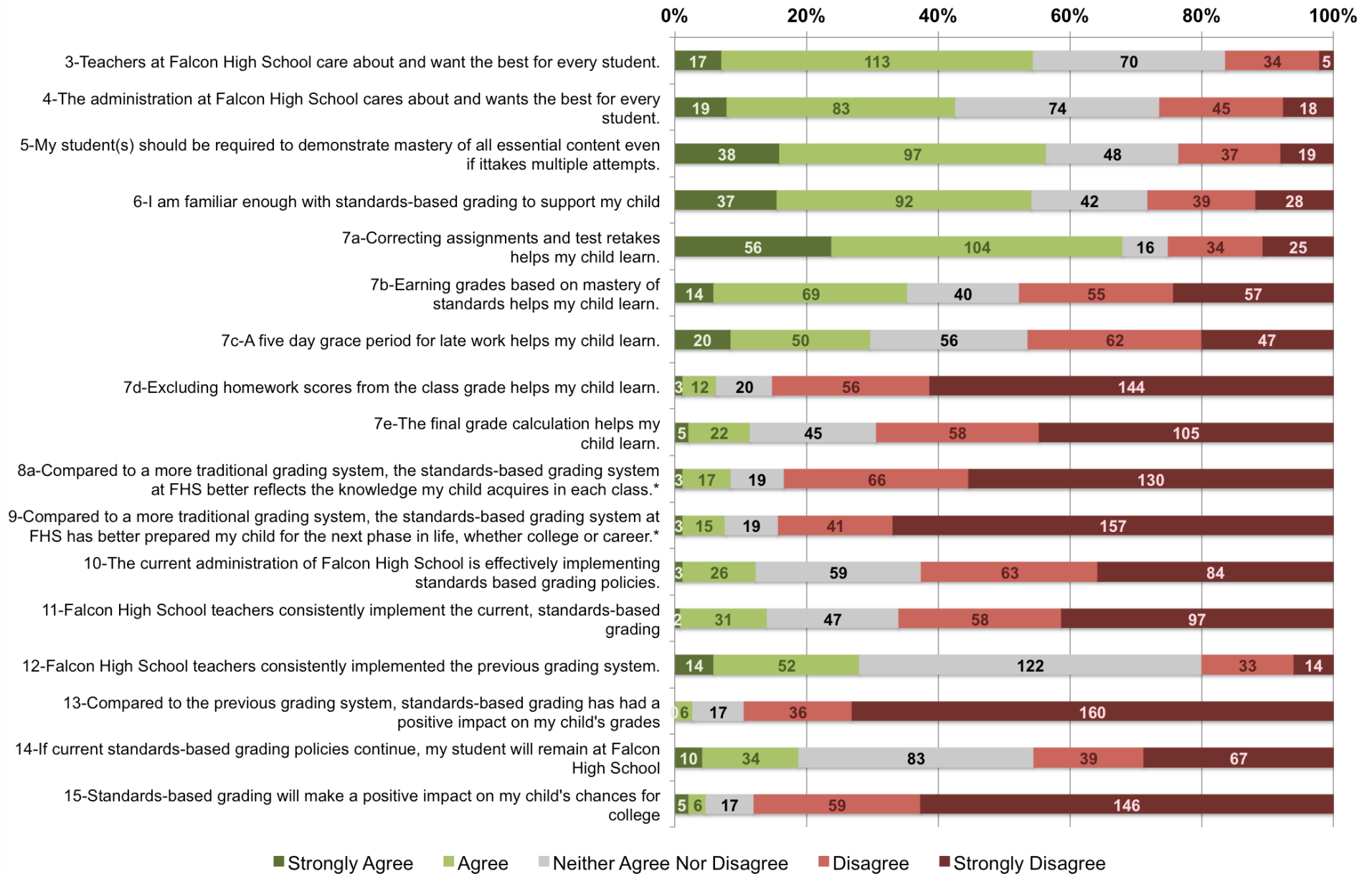


## Falcon High School Standards Based Grading Survey - Parents



## Major themes from the parent qualitative (comments) section of the survey:

### Implementation of SBG is inconsistent

#### Representative Comments

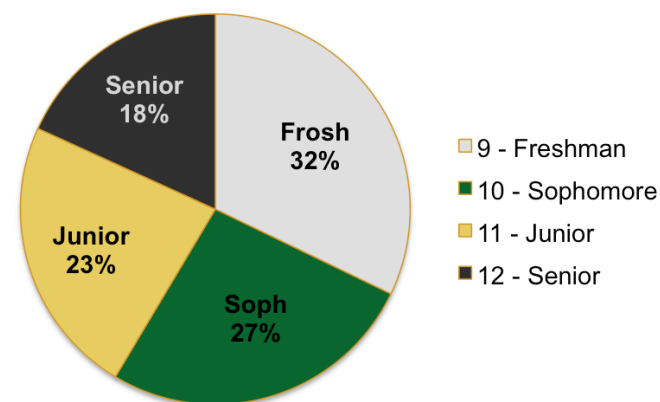
- There is no consistency in the application of the "new" grading system, probably because it makes zero mathematical sense.*
- The biggest thing is can you be consistent with things through a semester or even year with grading. My kids are juniors and it has changed in some way every year.*
- I don't disagree that SBG may work. I do however disagree how it was implemented as an "all or nothing" initiative before the teachers knew how to use it. No one is consistent in their grading.*
- Regarding SBG here at FHS, I think this has all been a matter of poor/inconsistent execution. I don't think the teachers sabotaged SBG. I just think that they didn't understand. I think things are getting better.*
- For our student, the standards-based grading system's biggest disadvantage is the inconsistent application by instructors.*
- The negatives are that the teachers are not following the grade calculations consistently and often go with the lowest grade, handing in late work causes laziness (you'd get fired from your job if you finished a project late - why not drop a grade if a project is late?), ungraded homework also creates laziness.*

### The Constraints/Caps and Retake Policy are unfair (Constraints means that any "I" caps as an "F", any "F" caps at "C" and equal numbers of grades (such as AAA + BBB or BBB + CCC) rounds down

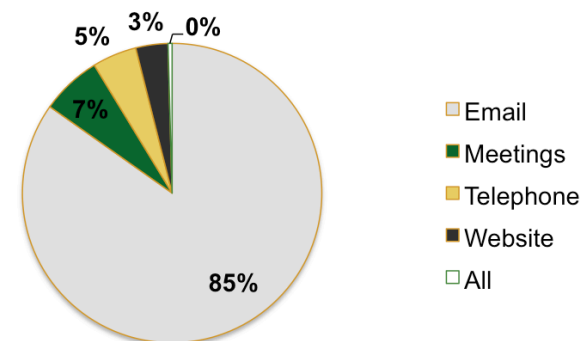
#### Representative Comments:

- The rounding down under SBG is not fair. Given 4 grades A,A,B,B=B. Why not round up at .5 like everyone else does? I've always been taught to round up with a .5. SBG is already hard enough. Why not give the student the benefit of rounding up?*
- I do not like the fact that if he re-takes a test, he could potentially fail the second test. It should be that if he re-takes the test, if he does better he gets a better grade, if he does worse, then he keeps his original grade. I have never likes this grading system and I feel that it only is making things worse. I do not understand how the grades are calculated, very confusing. We need to go back to the old way!!!!*
- On a test which you can have all A's except for 1 question where you get an F for that standard, it is just not right for that child to only be able to receive a C in that Area.*
- If a student does poorly at the beginning of the standard and finally comprehends at the end, the current "average" of grades does not correctly reflect the students level of comprehension on that standard. For example, F's at the introduction and B's or A's at the end = no*

#### 1-I currently have a child in grade(s):



#### 17-The best way to communicate with me about standards-based grading is:



*higher than a D. If a student meets expectations by the end of the standard, their grade should reflect as much, instead of punishing them for not understanding a new concept at its introduction.*

### **Not Grading Homework and allowing Retakes are Demotivating or Unrealistic Approaches**

Representative Comments:

- If we aren't grading homework or giving our students credit what is the motivation to complete said work? Would you (anyone reading this) do you job if you weren't getting paid?*
- Students have no motivation to do homework which is essential to learning because it doesn't count.*
- There is no incentive to do homework so the grading system is reliant on tests and occasional projects. Homework gives the student and the teacher regular assessments to see where the class is at.*
- My son needs to be motivated (by it being a requirement) to due homework, if given an option like he is now he won't do it which negatively impacts his mastering the material.*
- We (the parents) are kept in the dark as to what our kids are being taught and how they are doing. There is no incentive for our child to do their homework because they now it doesn't count for a grade.*
- The only time students are encouraged to do homework is after they have failed their first demonstration of their knowledge. The first demonstration of their knowledge is when their homework is graded. This grade counts but doesn't have the same value as the test. If a student gets a bad grade on homework they then know that they need to get help prior to the test.*

### **SBG is confusing and unstable over time**

Representative Comments:

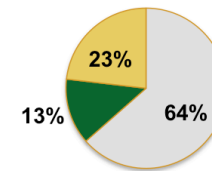
- For my Daughter who is graduating...did you realize that the grading system has change almost every semester since the now seniors were freshman? Again to clarify the grading system has changed almost every semester if not definitely every year.*
- The grading system implemented at FHS is not consistent with other institutions, is subjective and leads to confusion for both students and parents.*
- Under SBG all the terminology is very confusing. I am sure as an educator you hear summative/formative and it all makes sense. But as a parent it is very confusing.*
- The current system undermines what otherwise could be a positive and valuable educational experience, fostering confusion and an inability for either students or parents to understand strength or improvement areas.*

### **SBG is hurting students' chances at scholarships or college admissions**

Representative Comments:

- This system is stupid and is hurting our kids and their chances.*

**16-I would attend a collaborative forum to develop a competency-based grading system to replace the current standards-based grading at Falcon High School.**



Yes No I'm interested, but my schedule will not allow me to participate

- *I would pull my daughter out, but she doesn't want to leave the health academy. This grading system is hurting her chances at college scholarships.*
- *The teachers do not like it, the community and parents despise it, and the bottom line is this: IT IS HURTING OUR CHILDREN!!!!!! It is time for it to end and to remove any administrator that is bullying our children, parents, and community to promote their own agenda!*
- *I have too many friends whose children had exemplary grades until you implemented standards based grading who lost their opportunities for view scholarships. universities look at GPAs and your grading has cost many children scholarship opportunities for college. I will not let this happen to my child.*
- *It's sad that this grading is tanking grades for many Seniors that are afraid they won't graduate and others that won't qualify for view college scholarships based on grades on their transcripts.*

### **SBG consistency and support are improving**

#### **Representative Comments:**

- *Standards-based grading is becoming more consistent from one teacher to another. Which helps greatly in my understanding of how it works. It also helps my students understand what is needed of them. They both got 4.0 this last semester because they communicate with their teachers and know what they need to do to keep their grades up.*
- *Some teachers have been fantastic about working with my student and helping to prepare him for his tests.*
- *The positives are that the grades reflect what the student has learned, they have an opportunity to retake tests to make sure they understand the material, it prepares them for college grading, it eliminates unnecessary homework and it requires the teachers to provide a detailed rubric for the students.*
- *I feel my daughter is receiving a solid education at FHS and I appreciate the administration's diligence in continuing to try to improve the new grading system. It's always tough when you introduce something new to students and families but they are doing a terrific job!*

### **FHS should abandon or improve the SBG system**

#### **Representative Comments:**

- *This current travesty brings nothing but exasperation - and a justified increase in the homeschooling option. It's broken and we need to fix it.*
- *I look forward to a collaborative approach to finding a better way to assess grades. I would love to be a part of a work session on this topic.*
- *Please stop playing around with the students GPA when you are not really accomplishing mastery anyway - OR - fix your implementation so that it is truly providing solid practice and application, and enough attempts, to actually achieve mastery.*
- *I'm concerned that Standards Based Grading will impact college entry and I fell unqualified to coach my student on what he really needs.*
- *To be honest, I can see that this system would greatly benefit my son, who is currently at FMS and who struggles. I don't think it benefits the top students--but I don't think it hurts anyone either. Whatever the decision, our students will be attending FHS.*
- *I believe SBG works and would view it as a large failure of FHS leadership if the decision was reversed. If FHS goes back to traditional grading what message does that send to the parents and students who accepted, educated and supported SBG through hard work? I hope this survey is not a reaction to the parents and students who have been vocal in opposition to SBG. I believe if there was a mechanism to show the student's grade at any moment it would satisfy most of the concern.*

- *Please go back to traditional grades!*
- *I have never likes this grading system and I feel that it only is making things worse. I do not understand how the grades are calculated, very confusing. We need to go back to the old way!!!!*
- *I feel there should be a happy medium and the standard based grading is too much pressure for the kids, on top of college prep, and working thru their teenage years. We would like to see a change back to traditional grading.*