

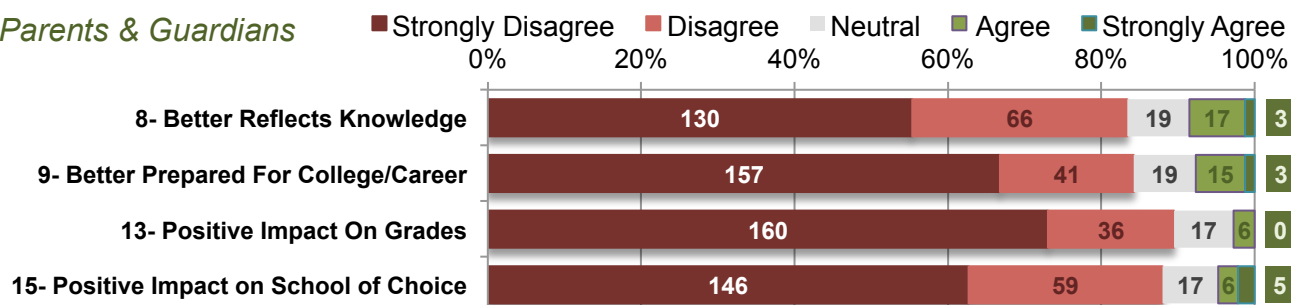
As part of an information gathering process during the Fall 2014 semester and January 2015, resulting from several community meetings facilitated through the School Accountability Committee, a survey on the standards based grading system at Falcon High School was made available to parents and guardians, students and staff.. Parent survey results were very clear regarding dissatisfaction with the existing grading system, providing nearly unanimous results on some questions. Student survey results show dissatisfaction, albeit at a lower level than the parent survey. In contrast, the teacher survey yields mild support for the system.

Results from each survey for identical questions regarding statements about the Falcon High School standards based grading system are below. Parents and students do not feel that the SBG system:

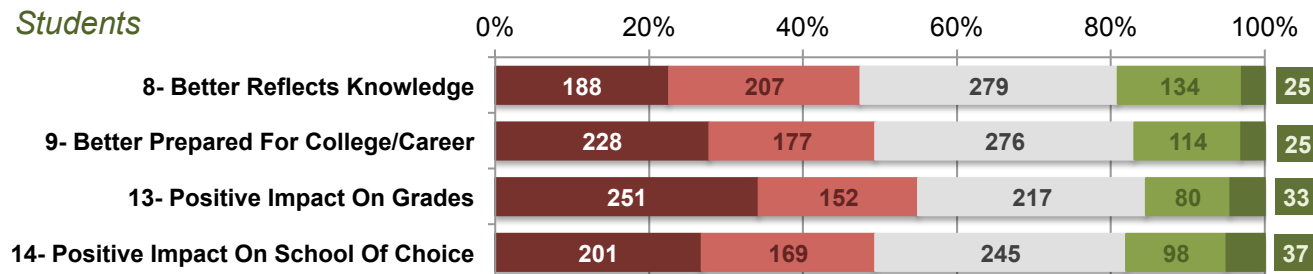
- Better reflects the knowledge that their student has learned
- Has better prepared their student for the next phase of life
- Has had a positive impact on their student's grades
- Has had a positive impact on the ability of their student to gain admissions into the college of her choice.

Standards Based Grading Survey Results

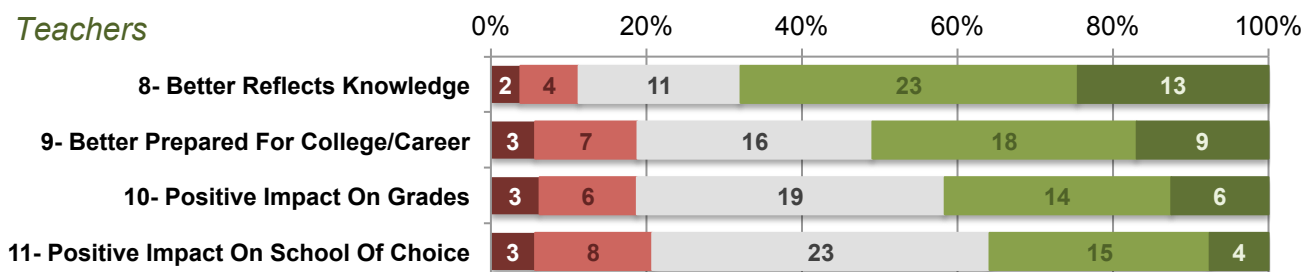
Parents & Guardians



Students



Teachers

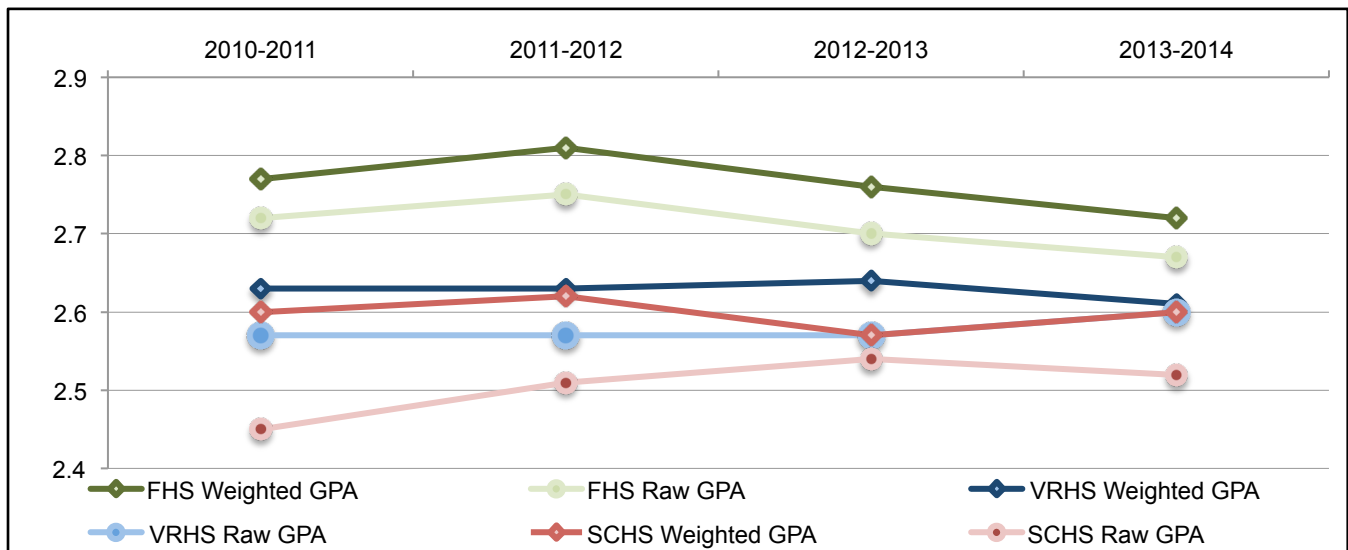


Letter Grade Distribution At Falcon High School Fall 2011-Fall 2014

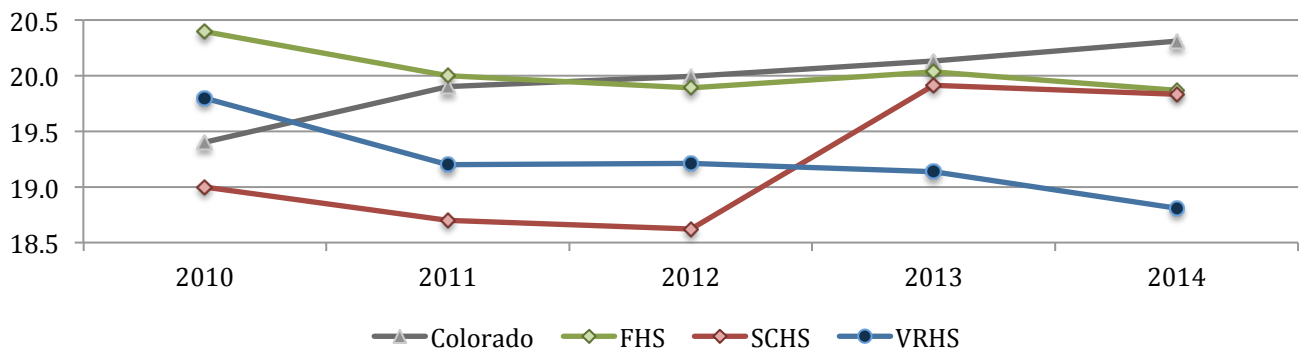


The data on grade distribution (above) and GPA (below) is unambiguous. The overall academic performance at FHS is basically flat, with significant improvements in college preparation and high-end award recipients, along with minor declines in ACT scores (.1-.3) and numbers of “A” grades awarded.

GPA Trends in District 49 Conventional High Schools 2010-2014



ACT Score Trends in District 49 2010-2014



Eliminating Inconsistency

We are shifting from hand-calculating grades to having the Infinite Campus database calculate all grades. This will increase the consistency of calculations across all teachers and reduce or eliminate any error rate. We have also emphasized the use of the school-wide quality rubric and teachers continue to have departmental and all-school planning sessions to increase their alignment and consistency.

Constraints/Caps Removed

We have removed the constraint that a single low grade will automatically constrain the final grade. For example, a grade of “F” on an assessment no longer caps the final course grade at a “C”.

Rounding Up

We have changed the grade calculation so that a straight average between two grades, or groups of grades, will round up instead of down. For example, an equal number of grades (such as BBB+CCC) now results in the higher letter grade.

Test Retakes

A student may retake an assessment and the final grade will be based on the higher of the two assessment grades.

Grade Recalculation

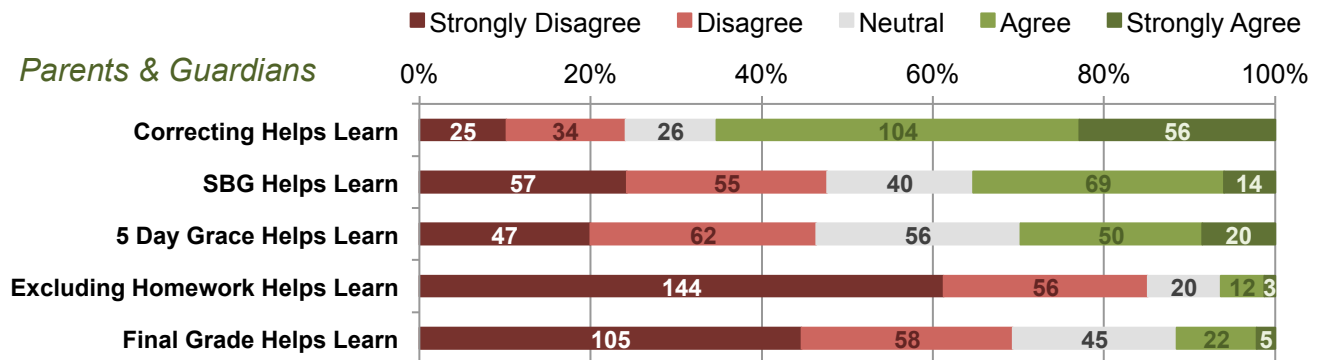
Having changed three material factors for how grades are calculated (the constraints component, the issue of “rounding up” and test retakes), FHS teachers and administration will welcome requests for reconsideration from any student whose Fall Semester grade was negatively impacted by those previous policies. Students will need to request reconsideration by demonstrating how a recalculation under the new standards would change their final grade. The student will begin the request with the teacher of the relevant class period. If the teacher and student do not agree, an appeal will be made to the principal at FHS who will consider the request and may grant grade change waivers based on the evidence submitted. A reconsideration request form will be available January 26, 2015.



TIMELINE FOR COLLABORATION TO DEVELOP NEW GRADING SYSTEM

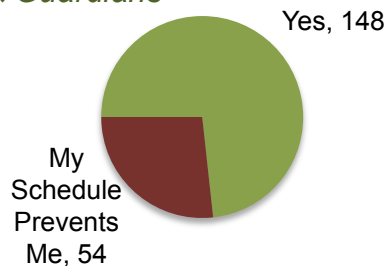
Significant numbers of parents, students, and teachers suggested specific improvements that would make standards based grading more effective. Nearly all of the consensus recommendations about improving the system are incorporated in the adjustments presented on the previous page, and all of the recommendations—including graded homework—will be under consideration when the FHS community develops an innovation proposal to become effective in Fall 2015. An example breakout of Falcon High School standards based grading system components is included below.

Aspects of FHS Standards Based Grading – Parent Survey Results

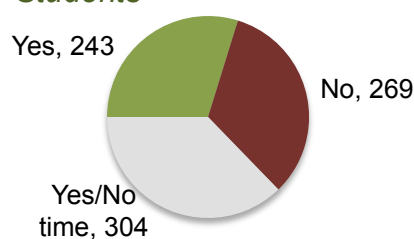


Willingness and Ability To Participate In Collaboration Discussions

Parents & Guardians



Students



Timeline Specifics

The previous FHS innovation plan expires in May. Creating a new innovation proposal for Falcon High School is a journey that requires community collaboration to best serve students. Multiple opportunities to participate are available. *Meetings at FHS on 2/17 and 3/5 will be a working dinner. FHS will provide a main dish and beverages. Families are asked to bring a side dish to share.

- 2/17 Initial meeting at Falcon High School* – 6pm
- 2/23 – 2/27 Public Comment Period
- 3/5 Second meeting at Falcon High School* – 6pm
- 3/9 – 3/12 Public Comment Period
- 3/18 Packet to Board Of Education containing new innovation plan proposal
- 3/25 Board of Education work session (BOE may direct changes to innovation plan)
- 3/26 – 4/3 Board of Education feedback adjustments
- 4/9 Board of Education Meeting. Board of Education will vote on new Falcon High School innovation

