

Palisades Charter High School Bill on 9.21.21: “Failure is not an option”
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Section 1: Declaration

It is agreed that a grade of F will be eliminated effective immediately from the grading scale for all Palisades Charter High School (PCHS) students for classroom grading, as well as unofficial transcript and official transcript. The F grade will be replaced with an NC (No Credit) grade. The PCHS grading scale now includes grades of A, B, C, D, NC (No Credit) only. PCHS grades earned from years prior to 2021-2022 or from other educational institutions will remain on the transcript. Therefore, Palisades Charter High School eliminates the F grade.

Section 2: Mission and Consensus

Whereas, Palisades Charter High School’s mission is to educate and support students so that they can be leaders to serve to the best of their abilities at the highest level possible.

We acknowledge with gratitude the evolution of this bill that stems from all the faculty who continue to participate in the PCHS Grading for Equity Initiative in collaboration with Dr. Pam Magee, Dr. Chris Lee, Ms. Monica Iannessa, and the rest of the administration team, with guidance from outside educational consultant Mr. Joe Feldman.

After further discussion, strong consensus was reached for this bill through the Board of Trustees appointed Academic Accountability Committee that gathered input from all PCHS stakeholders.

Section 3: Reasoning and Implementation

The No Credit (NC) grade will replace a grade of an F for the following reasons:

1. Grades should not have punitive consequences. A grade of an F damages students’ grade point averages. The NC grade will not have numerical consequences on students’ grade point averages.
2. A grade of an F has been shown to have negative consequences and ramifications on students’ self-esteem, motivation, and mental health.

Therefore, students will have the opportunity to make up any class in which they received an NC grade in order to receive a passing grade by showing adequate mastery of course content in order to earn credit for high school graduation.

Section 4: Effective Date

This proposal is effective immediately upon passage by the PCHS Board of Trustees, dated 9/21/21, and is in effect for school year 2021-2022 and beyond, indefinitely until further notice.